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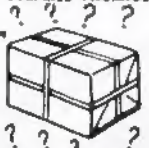
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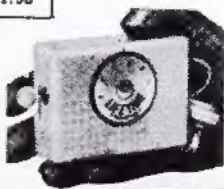
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WHAT WAS THAT THING CARVED INTO THE MOUNTAIN? WAS IT A NATURAL FORMATION, AN EERIE BUT ACCIDENTAL PRODUCT OF WIND AND RAIN? OR WAS THAT BLANK, STONE HEAD THE SUPERNATURAL POWER THAT LAY BEHIND THE TRAGIC MYSTERY OF...

the TOWN that LOST its FACE



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IT'S A BIG DAY FOR JAY BUFFORD, FLYING HOME IN HIS OWN HELICOPTER, AFTER FIVE YEARS' ABSENCE--RETURNING AS A DOCTOR OF MEDICINE...

SAY!... NOW'S MY CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING I'VE DREAMED OF ALL MY LIFE!



AFTER SETTING HIS PLANE ON AUTOMATIC ...

NO ONE'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO CLIMB THAT SHEER ROCK COLUMN TO LOOK RIGHT. AT OLD 'STONE FACE'! I'M THE FIRST MAN WHO'S EVER BEEN THIS CLOSE TO IT!



THE INDIANS BELIEVED THAT SOME GREAT SPIRIT CARVED THIS THING... BUT IT WAS REALLY THE NATURAL ELEMENTS THAT--OHH!... SUDDENLY FEEL DIZZY! HEAD SPINNING... I'M GONNA FALL!



FOR A BRIEF INSTANT, JAY TUMBLES TOWARD THE VALLEY BELOW-- BUT, IN THE LAST SPLIT SECOND...



WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! THE HEIGHT MUST HAVE MADE ME DIZZY... I'D BETTER CLIMB BACK WITH MY EYES UPWARD!

SOON AFTER, AS HIS FEET TREAD THE FAMILIAR STREETS OF HIS HOME TOWN...

WELL--MAYOR NELSON AND MY OLD 3RD GRADE TEACHER, MISS POTTER! IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!

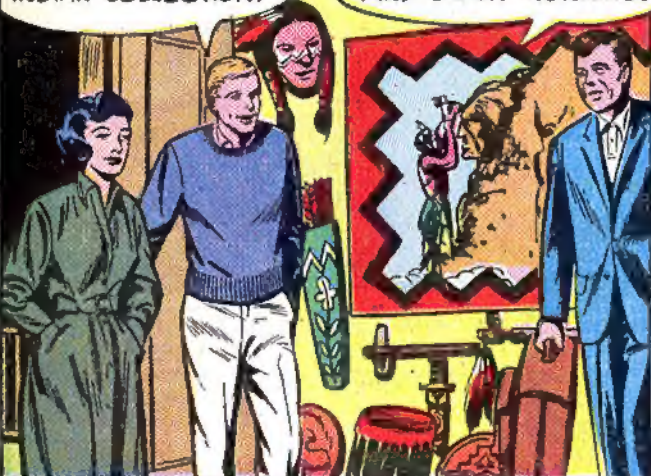
AND WE'RE PROUD TO HAVE YOU BACK, JAY! WE'VE NEEDED A YOUNG PHYSICIAN TO HELP OUT OLD DOC BURTON. NOW WE'VE GOT ONE!



SHORTLY, AS JAY RETURNS TO THE HOME OF TWO CLOSE FRIENDS...

YOUR OLD ROOM IS READY FOR YOU, JAY! WE'VE KEPT EVERYTHING INTACT... EVEN YOUR INDIAN COLLECTION!

MIKE AND ELLEN, YOU TWO ARE THE GREATEST! BUT I'M DYING TO GET OVER TO DOC BURTON'S, AND START WORKING!



SO AWHILE LATER, AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE...

...AND THAT'S HOW IT IS WITH A SMALL-TOWN PRACTICE, JAY! JAY?... ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

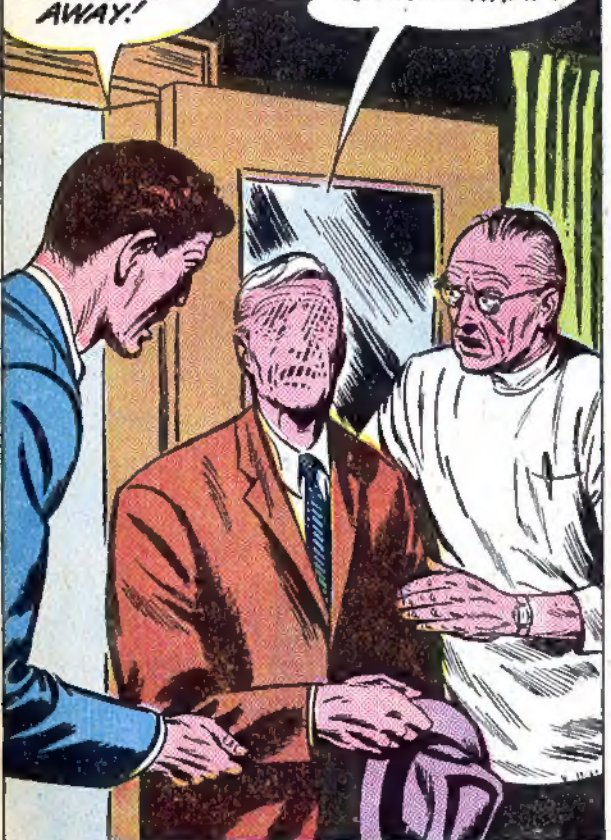
WHAT--? OH, YES, DOC... BUT MAYOR NELSON JUST PULLED UP OUTSIDE AND THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM! HE--HE'S COMING IN HERE!



WHEN THE MAYOR ARRIVES...

G-GREAT SCOTT! YOUR FACE, MAYOR NELSON... IT--IT'S FADING AWAY!

IT STARTED A FEW MINUTES AGO! MY SIGHT'S GOING-- AND IT'S GETTING IMPOSSIBLE TO SPEAK! W-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?... WHAT?



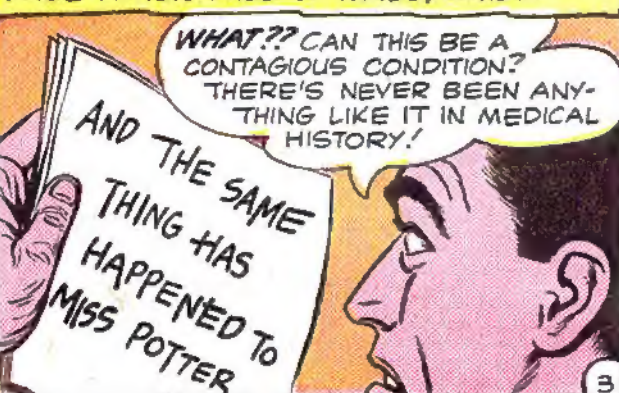
WITHIN A FEW MOMENTS...

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! HIS FEATURES HAVE COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED! HE CAN'T EVEN TALK NOW, TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS!

BUT HE CAN STILL WRITE... AND WE'VE GOT TO GET SOME ANSWERS FROM HIM, QUICKLY!



PAINFULLY, THE SIGHTLESS MAYOR SCRAWLS PAGE AFTER PAGE OF NOTES, UNTIL...



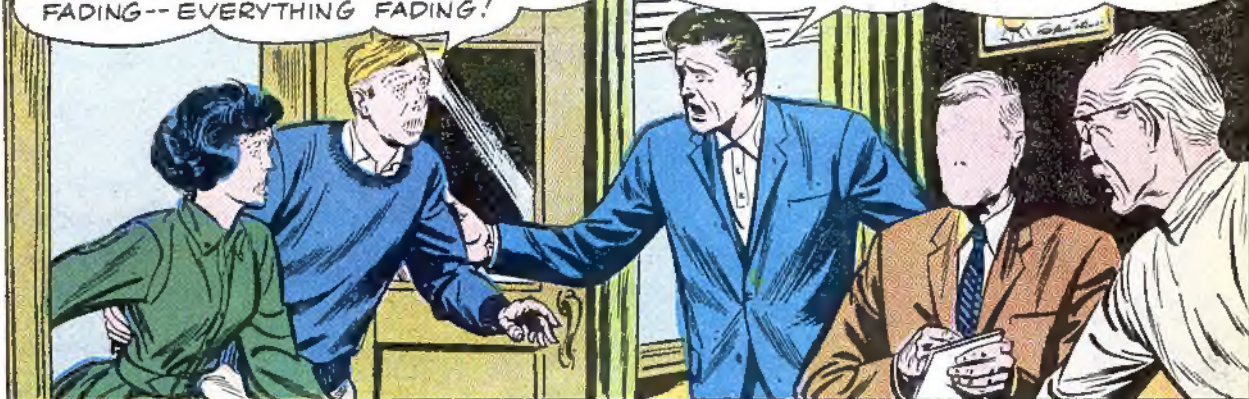
WHAT?? CAN THIS BE A CONTAGIOUS CONDITION? THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT IN MEDICAL HISTORY!

AND THE SAME THING HAS HAPPENED TO MISS POTTER

JUST THEN...

JAY! HELP US! SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS HAPPENING! C-CAN HARDLY SPEAK ANY LONGER... FADING-- EVERYTHING FADING!

GOOD GRIEF! IT'S A **PLAGUE**, DOC!... THE MOST FANTASTIC PLAGUE EVER KNOWN! FOUR CASES NOW... WHERE WILL IT END?



THIS IS NO MEDICAL PROBLEM, JAY! THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION... THE INDIANS ALWAYS CLAIMED THAT OLD **STONE FACE** HAD SUPERNATURAL POWERS!

AND YOU THINK THAT'S BEHIND IT ALL?... THAT SUPERSTITIOUS BUNK?



FRANTICALLY, THE BLIND MAYOR SCRAWLS ANOTHER MESSAGE...

DOC MAY BE RIGHT! MUST DESTROY **STONE FACE**!

HMPH--I CAN SEE THERE'S NO POINT IN ARGUING! I'LL DYNAMITE **STONE FACE** WITHIN THE HOUR, DOC!

SOON, HIGH OVER THE VALLEY AREA...

THERE!... THAT FUSE WILL GIVE ME PLENTY OF TIME TO GET OUT OF HERE! ONLY-- THAT DIZZY SPELL IS RETURNING!



GOT TO FIGHT THIS DIZZINESS! TAKING TOO LONG TO CLIMB BACK UP... ONLY SECONDS LEFT BEFORE FUSE GOES OFF!



WITH A LAST, DESPERATE EFFORT, JAY PULLS HIMSELF UP INTO THE COPTER-- AND, AS THE CRAFT MOVES OUT...

BAROOM

THERE SHE GOES! NOW, LET'S HOPE THAT DOC WAS RIGHT... IF **STONE FACE** SOMEHOW HAD THE FANTASTIC POWER TO REMOVE THE FACES OF MY FRIENDS, DESTROYING IT SHOULD SAVE THEM!

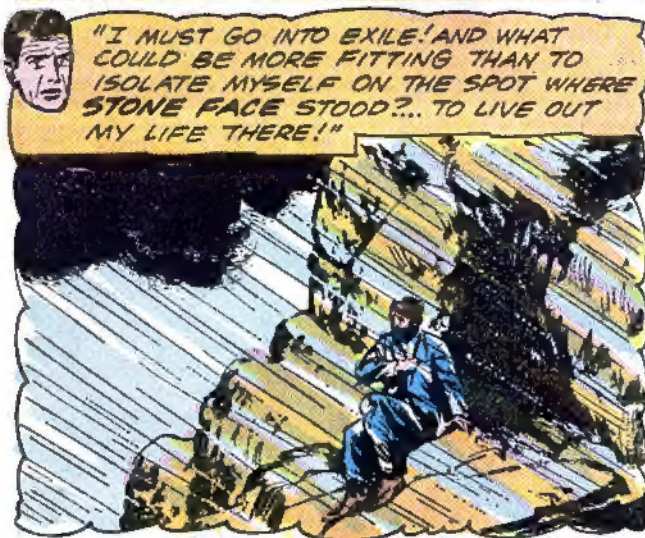
AFTERWARD...

WELL?... WHAT HAPPENED, DOC? I DESTROYED **STONE FACE**... DID IT RETURN THEIR FEATURES?

OH, NO--! YOUR FACE IS GONE, TOO, DOC! WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM!

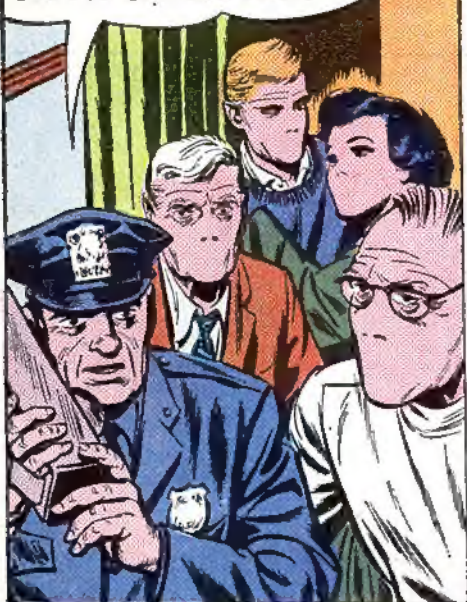
WHERE WILL THIS ALL END? FIRST, THE MAYOR AND MISS POTTER... THEN MIKE AND ELLEN... NOW, YOU! HOW CAN-- WAIT!-- I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING! DOC-- I'M THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS!

EACH OF YOU LOST YOUR FEATURES IN THE PRECISE ORDER IN WHICH WE MET, SINCE I CAME BACK TO TOWN! THAT DIZZY SENSATION IN THE PRESENCE OF **STONE FACE**... IT WAS SOME STRANGE POWER BEING TRANSFERRED TO ME! NOW, EVERYONE I LOOK AT WILL END UP LIKE YOU!

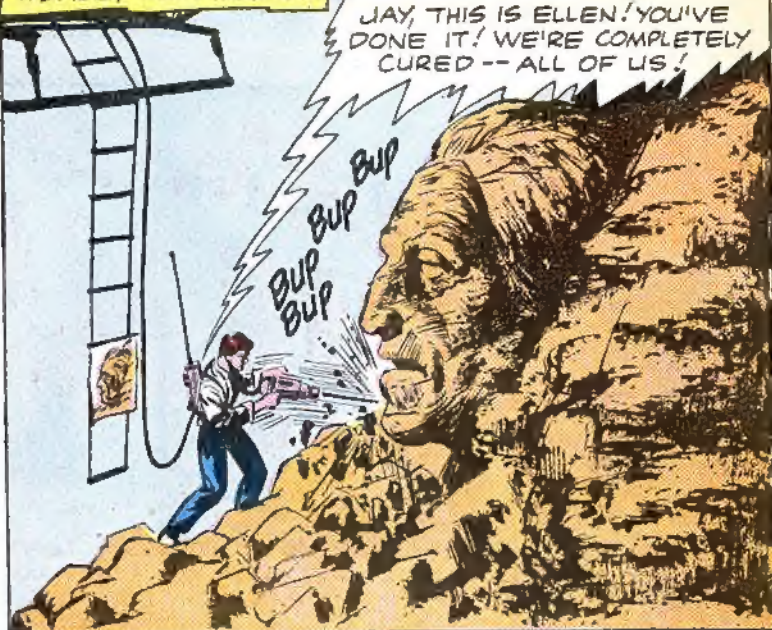




THEIR EYES HAVE RETURNED! IT'S WORKING, JAY! IT'S WORKING!



FASTER AND FASTER, JAY CHIPS OUT THE INDIAN VISAGE, TILL FINALLY...



AND SO, THAT NIGHT, WITH THE WEIRD ADVENTURE AT AN END...

WHO'D BELIEVE THAT THAT FACE UP THERE CURED ALL OF YOU OF THAT FANTASTIC CONDITION, AND REMOVED THE TERRIBLE POWER I POSSESSED?

I DON'T KNOW IF PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE IT, BUT THAT STONE FACE AND THIS STORY ARE SURE GOING TO BRING A LOT OF TOURIST TRADE TO OUR TOWN... HA-HA-HA!



The End

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Rip Hunter

AND HIS COMPANIONS
HURTLE BACK THROUGH
TIME TO ANCIENT
BRITAIN--TO SAVE A
CONDEMNED WARRIOR
FROM EXECUTION!
BUT A WEB OF DECEIT
SOON ENMESHESES THEM--
AND THEY HAVE TO
BATTLE FOR THEIR OWN
LIVES AGAINST

**FANTASTIC
CREATURES
AND THE DEADLY
WEAPONS OF THEIR
ALIEN
MASTERS!**

BE SURE TO GET ABOARD THE
TIME SPHERE
FOR THE MOST EXCITING
VOYAGE OF YOUR LIFE!

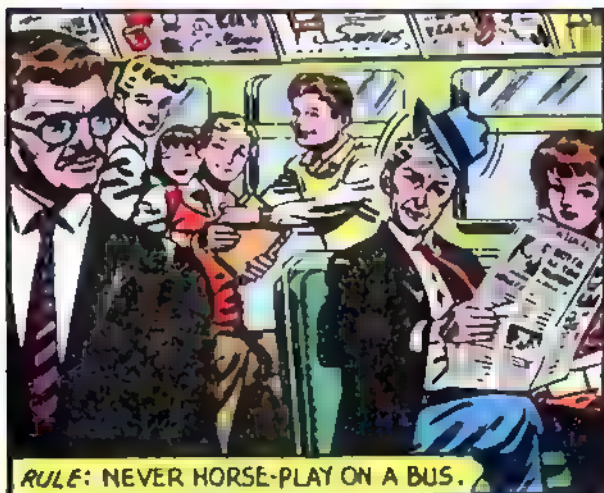
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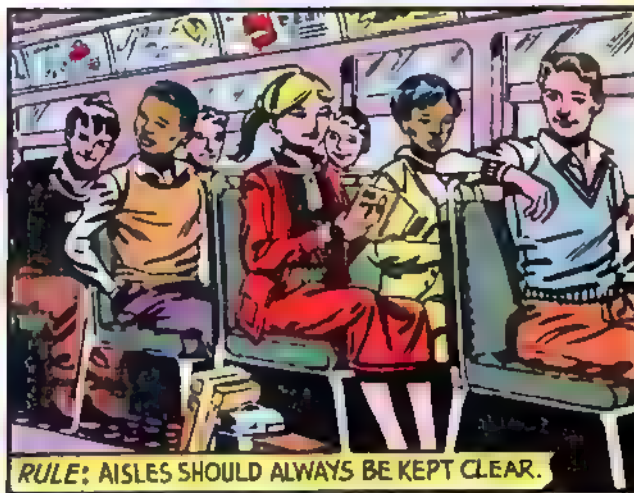
MILLIONS OF CHILDREN USE SCHOOL BUSES OR PUBLIC ONES FOR TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. HERE ARE SOME COMMON **SAFETY RULES** THAT ARE OFTEN BROKEN, RESULTING IN TRAGIC INJURIES AND FATALITIES



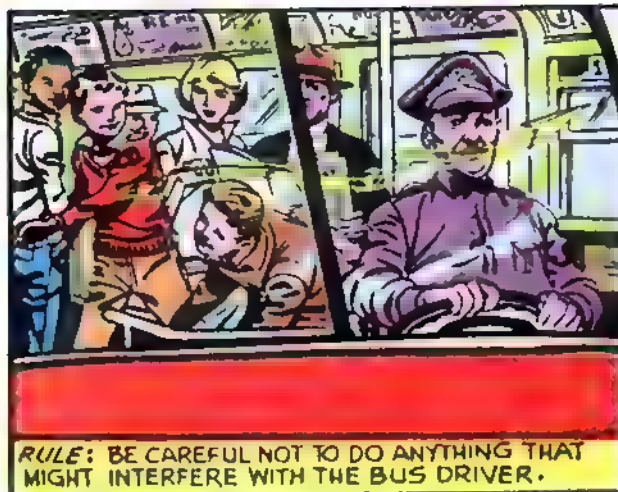
RULE: START FOR SCHOOL IN TIME—HASTE CAN MAKE YOU CARELESS, AND CAUSE ACCIDENTS. AND ALWAYS BE CAREFUL OF TRAFFIC IN CROSSING A STREET!



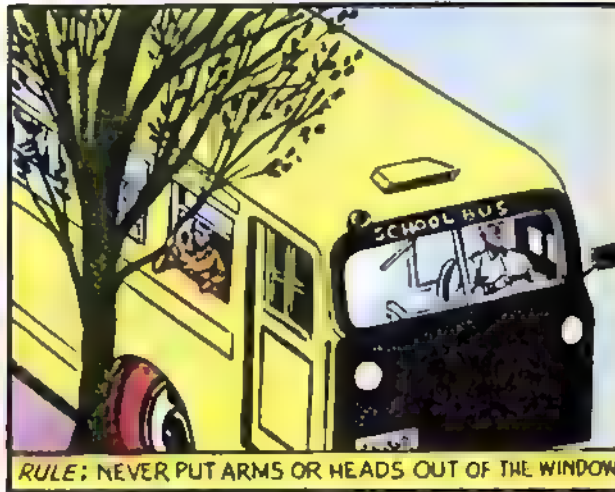
RULE: NEVER HORSE-PLAY ON A BUS.



RULE: AISLES SHOULD ALWAYS BE KEPT CLEAR.

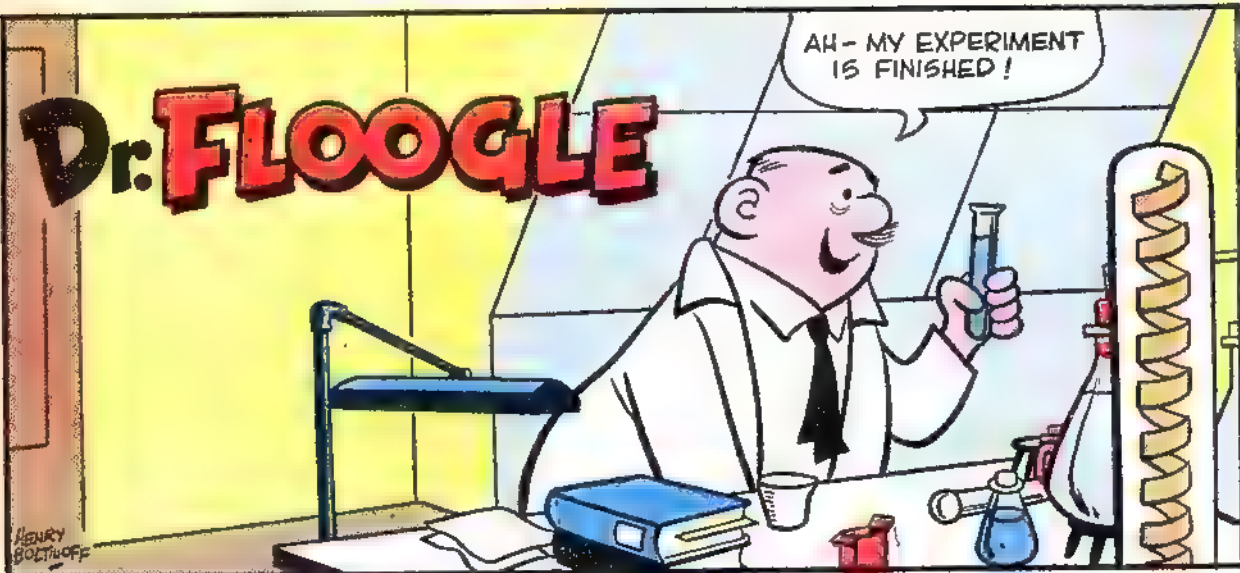


RULE: BE CAREFUL NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH THE BUS DRIVER.



RULE: NEVER PUT ARMS OR HEADS OUT OF THE WINDOW.

Dr. FLOOGLE



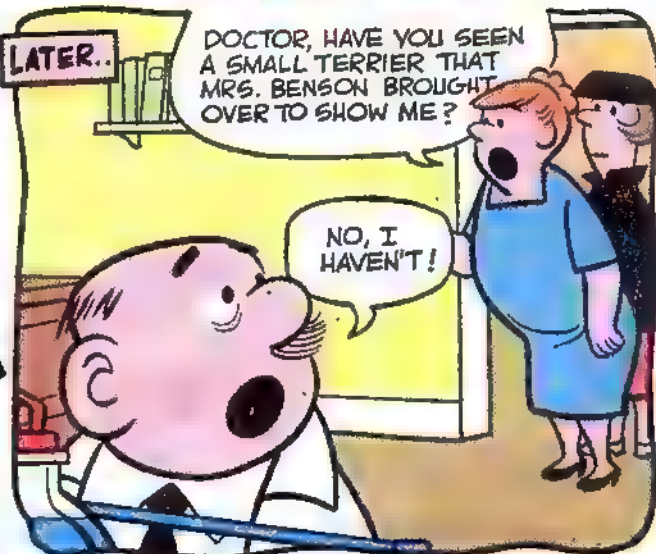
NOW TO PUT THE VIAL DOWN HERE TO LET IT COOL OFF!



LATER..

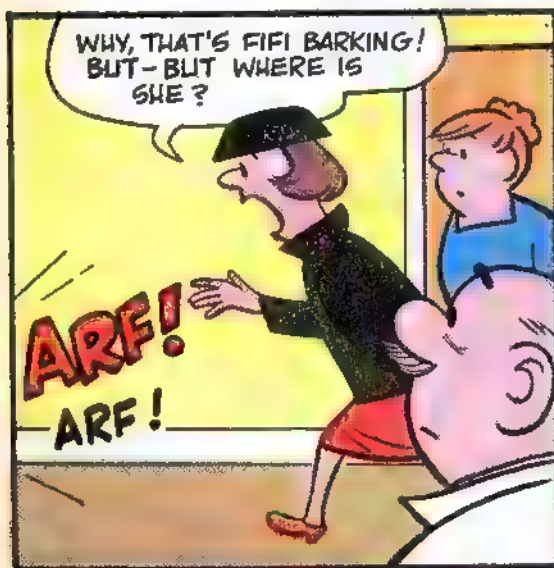
DOCTOR, HAVE YOU SEEN A SMALL TERRIER THAT MRS. BENSON BROUGHT OVER TO SHOW ME?

NO, I HAVEN'T!



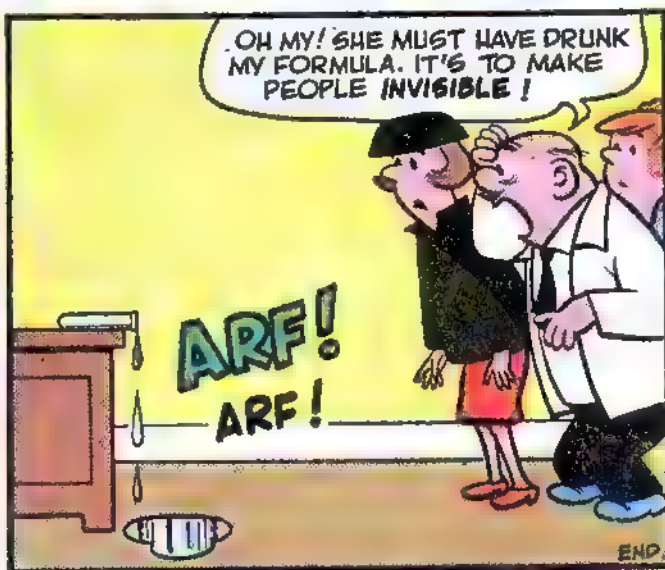
WHY, THAT'S FIFI BARKING! BUT - BUT WHERE IS SHE?

ARF!
ARF!



OH MY! SHE MUST HAVE DRUNK MY FORMULA. IT'S TO MAKE PEOPLE INVISIBLE!

ARF!
ARF!



The **BEST** Comics  are **STILL 10¢**



IT WAS A LONELY ISLAND WHERE NOTHING HAPPENED--AND ONLY THE PAST SEEMED EXCITING!
BUT THEN, ONE MAN DARED TO PLAY A DANGEROUS DOUBLE ROLE, AND THE DARK PAST
BECAME THE TERRIFYING PRESENT IN THE...

PAGEANT of the 300-YEAR DOOM!

MARQUIS D'AMADUR!
WE HAVE COME TO AVENGE
YOUR MURDER OF OUR
CAPTAIN, JEAN
LE SABRE!

H-HOW CAN I
CONVINCE THEM?...
THEY'RE PUNISHING
THE **WRONG**
MAN?



IT ALL BEGAN ON THAT DARK NIGHT OUTSIDE THE CHATEAU ON **AMADUR ISLAND**...

ANDRE, OLD FRIEND! I GOT YOUR INVITATION AND CAME SOON AS--

HURRY, CHARLES-- COME IN! NO ONE SHOULD SEE YOU HERE!



I WAS NO SOONER INSIDE ANDRE'S ANCESTRAL HOME THAN HE MADE HIS STARTLING PROPOSAL...

YOU... YOU WANT ME TO **IMPERSONATE YOU-- THE MARQUIS D'AMADUR?**

YES... EVERY YEAR, I PLAY THE LEADING ROLE IN THE ISLAND'S HISTORICAL PAGEANT-- THAT OF MY FAMOUS ANCESTOR, **RAOUL D'AMADUR!**



BUT THIS YEAR I CANNOT PLAY THE ROLE... I--ER-- I MUST BE ELSEWHERE... AND YOU, A PROFESSIONAL ACTOR, WHO SO MUCH RESEMBLES ME...

COULD TAKE YOUR PLACE? HMM-- IT IS QUITE A CHALLENGE... BUT WHY ALL THIS SECRECY?



ANDRE SAID HIS REASONS HAD TO REMAIN A MYSTERY-- AND SO, SHORTLY...

AU REVOIR, MON AMI! YOU ARE DOING ME A GREAT FAVOR! I... I WILL EXPLAIN WHEN I SEE YOU AGAIN!

I SURE HOPE SO, ANDRE!



I SPENT THE ENTIRE NIGHT DISGUISSING MYSELF AS ANDRE, PERFECTING HIS MANNERISMS UNTIL DAYLIGHT, WHEN...

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

HA, HA... YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE PIERRE LEDUC, IN COSTUME FOR THE PAGEANT, M'SIEU MARQUIS? COME... IT IS TIME FOR THE REHEARSAL!



AFTER DONNING THE COSTUME OF MY OTHER "ROLE"-- THAT OF ANDRE'S FAMOUS ANCESTOR...

RAOUL, MARQUIS D'AMADUR-- WE ARE THE LOYAL CREW OF JEAN LE SABRE! WE ACCUSE YOU OF HIS DEATH BY TREACHERY!

SO FAR, SO GOOD... THEY'RE CONVINCED I'M ANDRE!

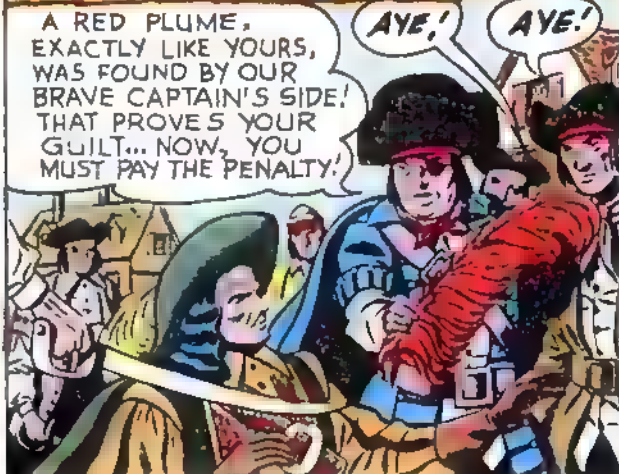


JEAN LE SABRE HAD BEEN A SWASHBUCKLING SEA ROVER, FIGHTING SIDE BY SIDE WITH RAOUL AGAINST THEIR ENEMY, COUNT CASTAC...

A RED PLUME, EXACTLY LIKE YOURS, WAS FOUND BY OUR BRAVE CAPTAIN'S SIDE! THAT PROVES YOUR GUILT... NOW, YOU MUST PAY THE PENALTY!

AYE!

AYE!



THE NEXT ACT IN THE PAGEANT WAS TO BE MY "EXECUTION", BUT...

NO NEED FOR MORE REHEARSAL! YOUR ACTING IS BETTER THAN EVER THIS YEAR, MARQUIS! WE SHALL CALL FOR YOU TOMORROW, FOR THE **REAL** PAGEANT!

GOOD... I'LL BE WAITING.



THAT NIGHT, I SLEPT UNEASILY IN THE GREAT OLD CHATEAU--AND THEN, NEAR DAWN...

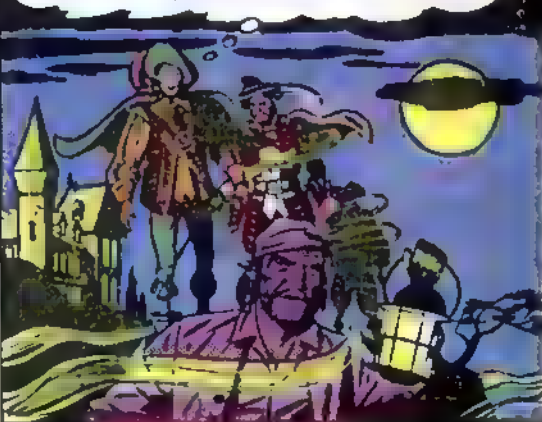
MARQUIS D'AMADUR-- WE HAVE COME TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF OUR LEADER, JEAN LE SABRE!

WHAT TERRIFIC COSTUMES! AND THE WAY THEY'RE ACTING--JUST AS IF IT WERE ALL REAL!



IN THE DARKNESS, I LET MY "CAPTORS" ESCORT ME FROM THE CHATEAU...

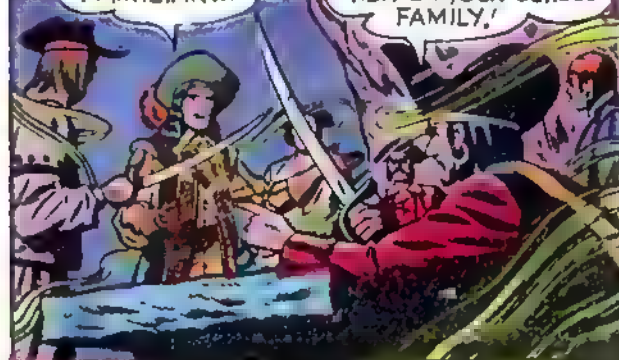
ODD... THEY'RE NOT TAKING ME TO THE VILLAGE. AND THOSE FACES-- SO FULL OF HATE AND VENGEANCE...



I THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN A LAST MINUTE CHANGE IN THE PAGEANT, BUT...

WHAT IS THIS PLACE? THIS WASN'T IN THE REHEARSAL! NONE OF YOUR VOICES IS FAMILIAR...

SILENCE! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE FATE WE HAVE LONG WAITED TO VISIT ON YOUR CURSED FAMILY!



WE HAVE GIVEN YOU TIME ENOUGH, SINCE YOU RELEASED US FROM THE CHATEAU DUNGEON, TO FIND REASON WHY YOU SHOULD NOT DIE! HAVE YOU FOUND AN ANSWER TO THIS RED PLUME--PROOF OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S GUILT?





HOUSE OF SECRETS



A THOUSAND CONFUSED THOUGHTS WHIRLED IN MY HEAD...

DUNGEON... RED PLUME... WHAT CAN IT ALL MEAN?

THIS TIME, YOU HAVE NO DRUGGED WINE TO ROB US OF OUR SENSES, AS YOUR CURSED ANCESTOR HAD! SPIRITS LIKE US HAVE NO MORTAL WEAKNESSES!



ALL AT ONCE, THE WHOLE SHOCKING TRUTH STRUCK ME WITH SLEDGE-HAMMER BLOWS...

THEY'RE NOT ACTORS! THEY'RE **REAL!**... REAL SPIRITS FROM THE PAST!

DEATH TO THE DESCENDANT OF **RAOUL D'AMADUR!**



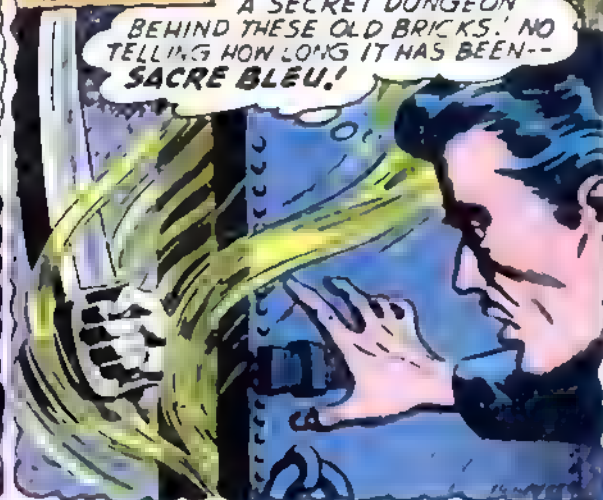
AS I RETREATED TO THE CLIFF EDGE, MY IMAGINATION RACED BACK--TO A DAY THREE CENTURIES BEFORE...

JEAN LE SABRE'S CREW CAME TO AVENGE HIS DEATH-- BUT MY DRUGGED WINE HAS PUT THEM INTO A DEEP TRANCE! AND MY SECRET DUNGEON SHALL HOLD THEIR FURY IN CHECK-- FOREVER!



CENTURIES MUST'VE PASSED UNTIL, RECENTLY...

A SECRET DUNGEON BEHIND THESE OLD BRICKS! NO TELLING HOW LONG IT HAS BEEN-- **SACRE BLEU!**



THE SPIRITS OF LE SABRE'S CREW-- PERHAPS PRESERVED BY THE ORIGINAL DRUG-- WERE RELEASED AFTER 300 YEARS...

BUT.. YOU DON'T WANT VENGEANCE AGAINST **ME!** I AM NOT **RAOUL!**... I AM JUST HIS **DESCENDANT!**



OUR VOW OF VENGEANCE INCLUDES **ALL** OF YOUR FAMILY! UNTIL THAT VOW IS SATISFIED, OUR SPIRITS CANNOT REST! WE GIVE YOU 48 HOURS TO PROVE WHY THE FATE INTENDED FOR YOUR ANCESTOR SHOULD NOT BE YOURS!



MY "FRIEND" ANDRE KNEW THE SPIRITS OF LE SABRE'S CREW WOULD RETURN ON THE NIGHT OF THE PAGEANT...

I MUST FIND A WAY TO LEAVE AMADUR FOR A WHILE--AND YET NOT APPEAR COWARDLY TO THE VILLAGERS! MY FAMILY HAS ALWAYS BEEN BRAVE... **TOO BRAVE!**



ANDRE GOT ME TO IMPERSONATE HIM SO HE COULD ESCAPE FACING THESE GHOSTLY AVENGERS! AND IF I TOLD THEM I WAS JUST AN ACTOR, THEY'D SAY I WAS ONLY TRYING TO SAVE MY SKIN!



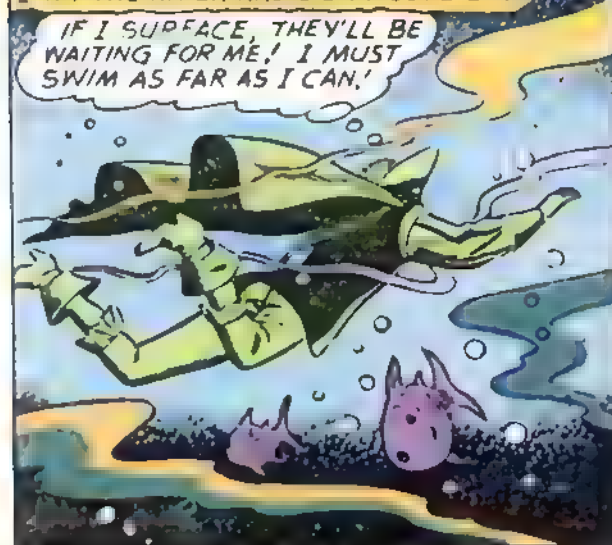
AS THE DEADLY BLADES OF THOSE CENTURIES OLD SWASHBUCKLERS CLOSED IN...

BY MY BOOTS-- HE LEAPED INTO THE SEA! QUICKLY! WE WILL FISH HIM OUT DOWN BELOW, ON THE BEACH!



I HIT THE WATER AND DIDN'T COME UP...

IF I SURFACE, THEY'LL BE WAITING FOR ME! I MUST SWIM AS FAR AS I CAN!



FINALLY WITH MY LUNGS AT BURSTING POINT...

THAT CAVE... I'LL HIDE IN IT UNTIL I CAN FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THIS MESS!



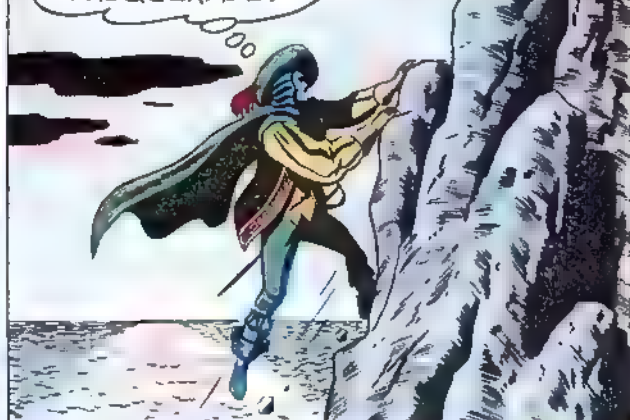
AS I HAULED MYSELF INTO THE CAVERN...

GREAT SCOTT! THOSE SCRATCHINGS IN THE ROCK CEILING... THIS IS MORE FANTASTIC THAN ANYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME ON THIS INCREDIBLE ISLAND!



I HAD TO REACH THE CHATEAU AT ONCE WITH MY STARTLING DISCOVERY...

SO FAR, I'VE HAD TO PLAY SWASHBUCKLER, HIGH DIVER--AND NOW MOUNTAIN CLIMBER--IN THIS MASQUERADE!



SOMEHOW, I REACHED THE CLIFF TOP AND RACED TOWARD THE VILLAGE, WHEN SUDDENLY...

OH, NO--! LE SABRE'S CREW... THEY'VE FOUND ME AGAIN!

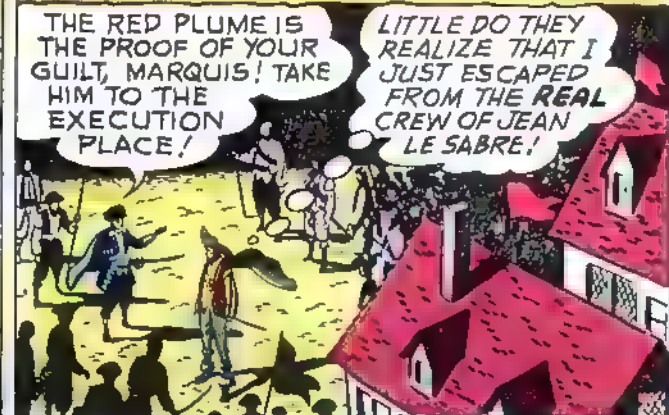
WHAT IS WRONG, MARQUIS? DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE PIERRE LE DUC AND YOUR VILLAGERS? COME-- THE PAGEANT IS BEGINNING!



WITH A SIGH OF RELIEF, I FOLLOWED LEDUC AND THE OTHERS TO WHERE THE PAGEANT STARTED...

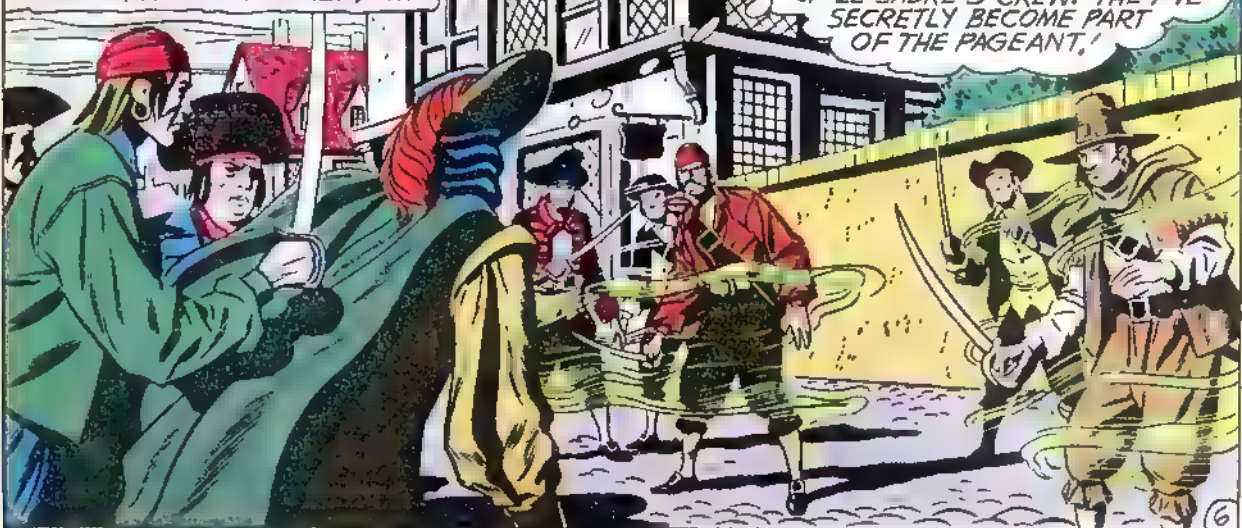
THE RED PLUME IS THE PROOF OF YOUR GUILT, MARQUIS! TAKE HIM TO THE EXECUTION PLACE!

LITTLE DO THEY REALIZE THAT I JUST ESCAPED FROM THE REAL CREW OF JEAN LE SABRE!



BUT, AS THE COSTUMED VILLAGERS LED ME TO WHERE I WAS TO PAY THE "EXTREME PENALTY"...

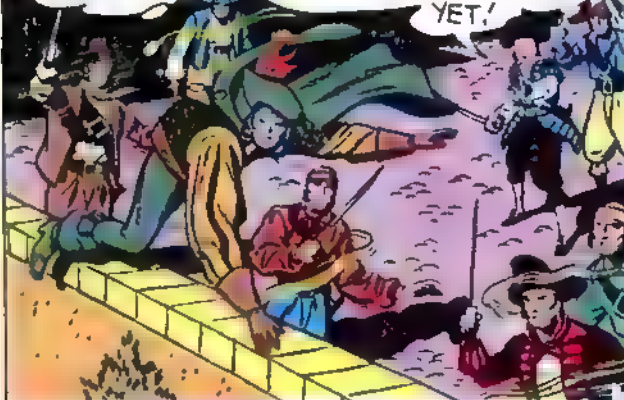
GREAT SCOTT! THERE... WAITING FOR ME--THE SPIRITS OF LE SABRE'S CREW! THEY'VE SECRETLY BECOME PART OF THE PAGEANT!



I KNEW THAT THESE "EXECUTIONERS" WOULD NOT BE PLAY-ACTING...

I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE THEM AGAIN!

M'SIEU MARQUIS! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THE PAGEANT IS NOT OVER YET!



A DESPERATE SCHEME FORMED IN MY BRAIN AS I RACED, LIKE A HUNTED ANIMAL, AHEAD OF MY PHANTOM PURSUERS...

THE CAVE... I MUST LEAD THEM TO THE CAVE-- IF I CAN KEEP AHEAD OF THEM THAT LONG!



I HAD JUST REACHED THAT TIDAL CAVERN, WHEN...

NOW, MARQUIS D'AMADUR--YOU WILL PAY AT LAST FOR YOUR ANCESTOR'S CRIME!

BUT MY ANCESTOR, RAOUL, NEVER BETRAYED YOUR CAPTAIN! LOOK!



I WAS LURED HERE AND ATTACKED BY COUNT CASTAC! THESE ARE MY LAST WORDS BEFORE DEATH AND THE TIDE COME!
JEAN LE SABRE

OUR LEADER'S MESSAGE-- MADE WITH HIS SABRE POINT!



I STILL HAD TO COMPLETE THE LAST PIECES OF THE PUZZLE...

CASTAC WAS YOUR CAPTAIN'S AND MY ANCESTOR'S ENEMY! WHEN LE SABRE'S BODY WAS CARRIED TO THE BEACH BY THE TIDE, CASTAC LEFT A RED PLUME NEAR IT, TO PLACE THE GUILT ON MY ANCESTOR!



RAOUL WAS INNOCENT! NOT HAVING PROOF OF HIS INNOCENCE, HE LOCKED YOU IN THE DUNGEON--AND NO DOUBT WAS UNABLE TO RETURN TO RELEASE YOU! CASTAC MAY HAVE FINISHED HIM, ALSO!



THEN OUR QUEST FOR VENGEANCE IS OVER! WE HAVE SOUGHT THE WRONG MAN DOWN THE CENTURIES... NOW OUR SPIRITS CAN FIND REST. THE VOW WE TOOK WAS FALSE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!



THEN, BEFORE MY ASTONISHED EYES...

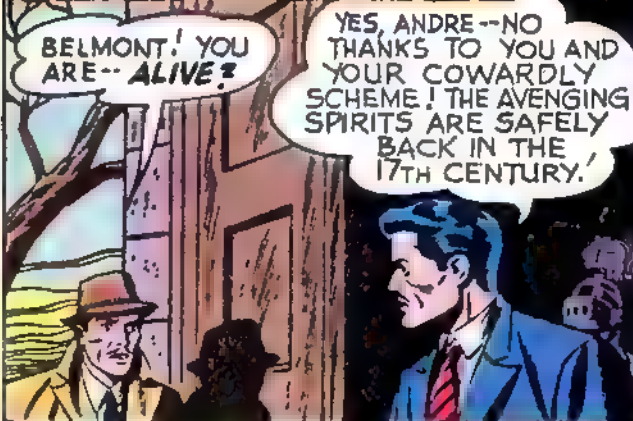
THEY... THEY'RE FADING AWAY... GOING BACK INTO THE PAST FROM WHENCE THEY CAME!



MY FANTASTIC IMPERSONATION WAS OVER--MY DANGEROUS DOUBLE ROLE ENDED--BUT THE FINAL ACT CAME ON THE FOLLOWING DAY...

BELMONT! YOU ARE--ALIVE?

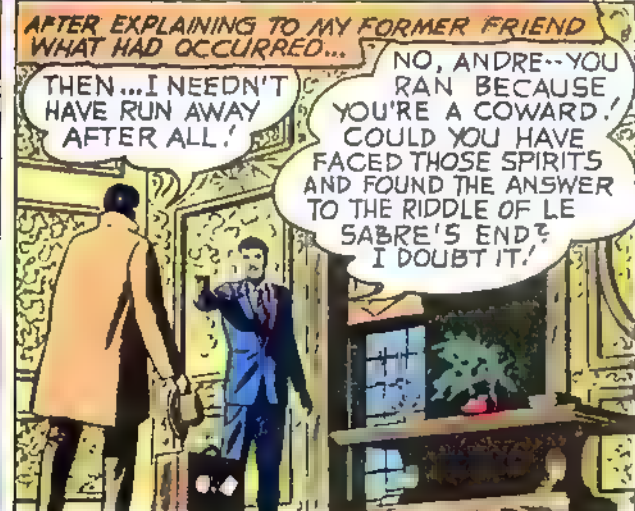
YES, ANDRE--NO THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR COWARDLY SCHEME! THE AVENGING SPIRITS ARE SAFELY BACK IN THE 17TH CENTURY!



AFTER EXPLAINING TO MY FORMER FRIEND WHAT HAD OCCURRED...

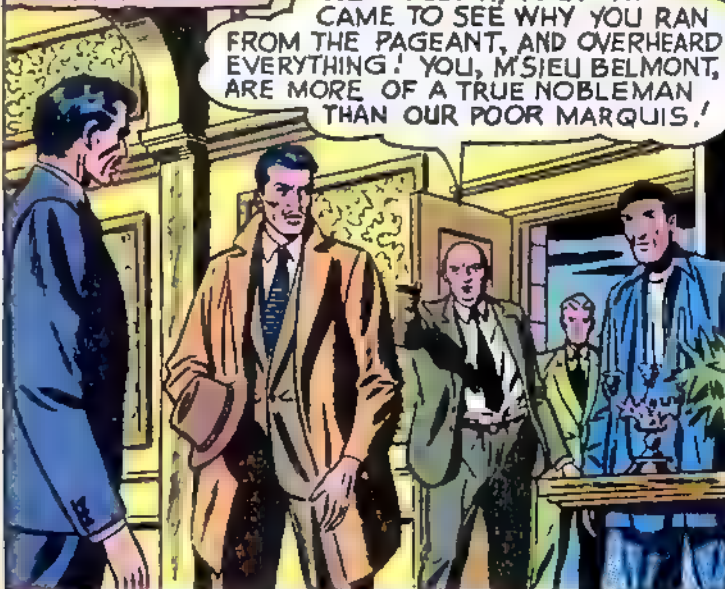
THEN...I NEEDN'T HAVE RUN AWAY AFTER ALL!

NO, ANDRE--YOU RAN BECAUSE YOU'RE A COWARD! COULD YOU HAVE FACED THOSE SPIRITS AND FOUND THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE OF LE SABRE'S END? I DOUBT IT!

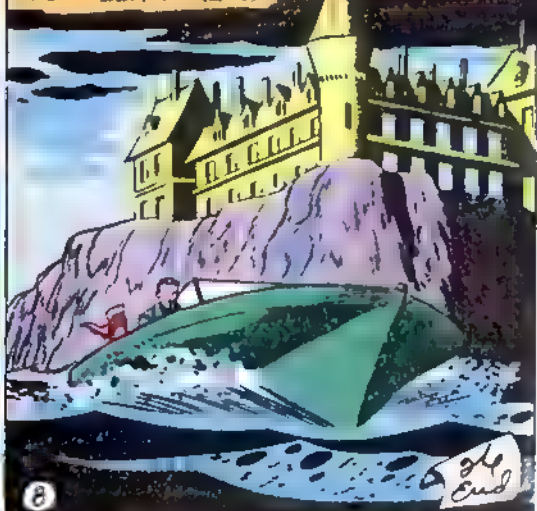


AT THAT MOMENT...

WE DOUBT IT, TOO! WE CAME TO SEE WHY YOU RAN FROM THE PAGEANT, AND OVERHEARD EVERYTHING! YOU, M'SIEU BELMONT, ARE MORE OF A TRUE NOBLEMAN THAN OUR POOR MARQUIS!



SOON AFTER, I LEFT THE ISLAND OF AMADUR--AND LEFT ANDRE TO HIS CONSCIENCE AND THE CONTEMPT OF HIS VILLAGERS...

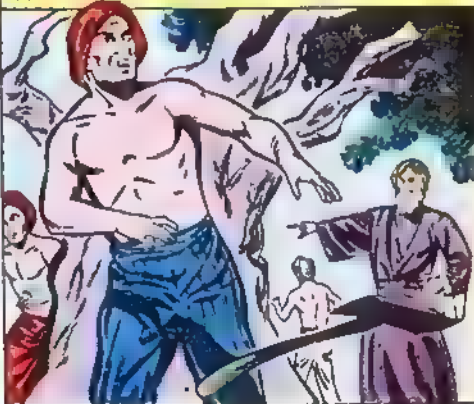


MYSTERIOUS TREE!

IN JHANSI, INDIA, NEAR THE ANCIENT TEMPLE OF LAHERKI DERKI, THERE STANDS TODAY A TAMARIND TREE WHICH IS TREATED AS A SHRINE BY THE NATIVES! MANY YEARS AGO, A HOLY MAN MADE HIS HOME IN THE TREE'S HOLLOW. EVENTUALLY, WHEN HE DIED, HE WAS ENTOMBED IN THE TREE WHICH WAS CONSIDERED SACRED!



NOT LONG AGO, GROUNDKEEPERS, RE-LANDSCAPING THE TEMPLE GROUNDS, DECIDED TO REMOVE THE TAMARIND TREE! BUT THEY COULD FIND NO ONE BRAVE ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT TO RAZE IT!



FINALLY, THE CONTRACTOR HIRED A WOODCUTTER TO FELL THE TREE! AT THE INSTANT HIS AXE TOUCHED THE TREE, THE TOOL FLEW FROM HIS GRASP AND THE MAN FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



LATER, ANOTHER WOODSMAN WAS KILLED BY A LIMB FALLING FROM THE TREE, WHEN HIS AXE BARELY HAD TOUCHED THE TREE'S TRUNK! SOON, OTHER DEATHS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO THE VENGEANCE OF THE TREE, AND LOCAL PEOPLE AVOIDED MENTIONING THE TREE IN EVEN CASUAL CONVERSATION!



FINALLY, WHEN THE CONTRACTOR'S DAUGHTER DIED SUDDENLY AND HIS SERVANTS FELL SERIOUSLY ILL, THE PROJECT WAS DROPPED ALTOGETHER! THUS THE TAMARIND TREE STILL STANDS TODAY!

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BLACK-MAGIC BEASTS

IT is generally known that the owl, cow, hyena, mole, lizard, chameleon and weasel, have long been associated in ancient times with magic rites. Less well known is the part played by such domestic animals as the horse, dog and cat in the history of black magic.

Among the ancient Romans, the donkey was considered an evil omen, and if one crossed the path of an early Roman, he considered it a sign of bad luck. Conversely, the Arabs considered the same beast a token of good luck, and honored it in many ways.

In Eastern countries, the ancients believed that demons were able to assume the form of a dog. All dogs, therefore, were considered suspect, for no one could ever be sure that a yapping hound, happily wagging its tail, cloaked the identity of a dangerous demon.

Not even the gentle horse escaped this unjustified reputation, for in medieval legend it was believed that demons took the form of a horse. A colt pixie, for instance, was considered a malevolent spirit, in equine form, that lured real horses to destruction in swamps.

Wizards and necromancers employed such horses in their sinister practices, it was thought. Among the Saxons, the horse was credited with occult powers. According to the Roman historian, Tacitus, the Germanic tribes practiced divination by observing the whinnying and neighing of certain sacred horses. Incidentally, the superstition of nailing horse-shoes to the threshold to frighten away witches, dates back to the Middle Ages.

But the animal most associated with magical powers throughout history, is the cat, considered to be the first pet of civilization. Modern doctors have a name for an abnormal fear of cats. It is called "Felinophobia." And some famous or infamous leaders, like Hitler, suffered from this. When Napoleon once saw a cat stalking through his palace, he almost

collapsed with fear and began shouting for help. Another Bonaparte, Joseph, King of Naples, while on a visit to Saratoga Springs, in 1825, suddenly fainted in a guest's house. He had "sensed," he claimed, the presence of a cat, although no animal was visible. An immediate search produced a kitten hiding in a sideboard. Henry III also used to faint at the sight of a cat, as did Oliver Goldsmith and James Boswell.

The cat was regarded as sacred in ancient India, and in Sanskrit literature, frequent reference is made to the animal and its influence on man. In ancient Britain, the cat, introduced by the Romans, enjoyed great prestige for its supposed mystical powers, and sacred rites were held in its honor.

But it was the Egyptians who raised the cat to the highest mystical position. In Lower Egypt, an entire city, Bubastis, was dedicated to cat worship. Every year, almost a million pilgrims journeyed to Bubastis to the cat festival in May. The temples were packed with penitents making vows to cat deities. Cat amulets were on sale, and worshippers paid dearly for cat figurines in precious metals and stones.

When the Egyptian cat cult died out, its influence spread to Europe, where cat clans sprang up in Celtic and Teutonic regions.

In Scandinavian countries, Freya was the cat-goddess. She was depicted as drawn in a chariot by two cats.

In Europe in the Middle Ages, cats, preferably black, were associated with nocturnal magic. They were even believed capable of speaking the language of their owners. A prominent 18th century English witch, Moll White, owned a cat everyone believed could speak English.

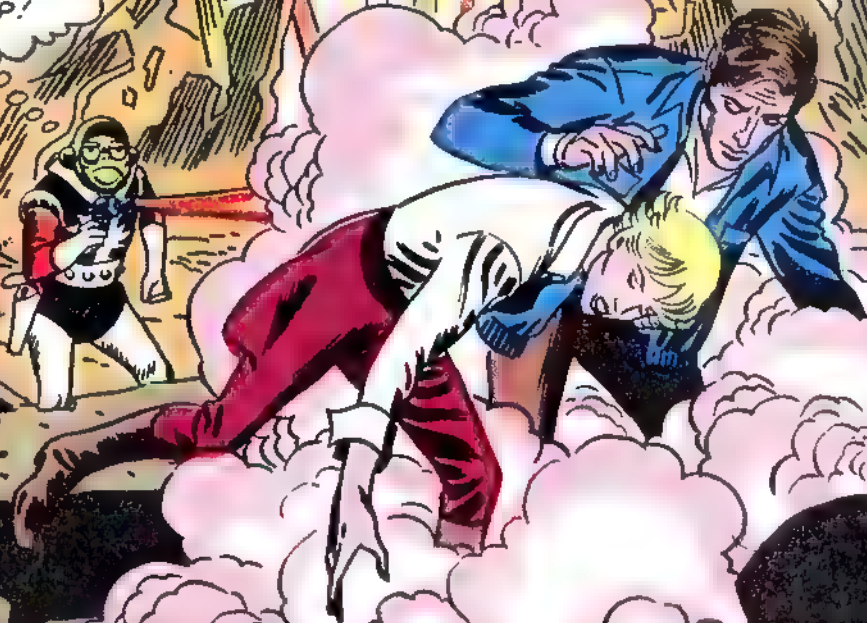
We may laugh at these ancient superstitions, but how many of you readers honestly believe that bad luck will befall you if a black cat crosses your path?

THE FLAMING ORE SEEMED TO COME FROM THE MOLTEN CENTER OF THE EARTH'S CORE, AS THE PLANET WRITHED IN AN AWESOME AGONY OF DEATH! AND OF THE BILLIONS WHO INHABITED OUR WORLD, TWO PERSONS -- MARK MERLIN AND ELSA -- BECAME...

the LAST SURVIVORS of PLANET EARTH

A
MARK
MERLIN
MYSTERY

MUST SAVE
THESE TWO
EARTHLINGS,
BEFORE THE
ENTIRE PLANET
BLOWS UP!





HOUSE OF SECRETS



FANTASTIC LIGHTS ILLUMINATE THE SKY OVER A REMOTE AREA--AND HASTENING TO INVESTIGATE THE SCENE ARE TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES...

DREAD MINUTES LATER...

GOOD GRIEF! ALL THAT FLAME--AND MOLTEN ORE... EXPLODING!

IT SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM DEEP DOWN IN THE EARTH!

THAT SHOWER OF FLAMING STARS. WHAT COULD BE CAUSING IT, MARK?

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SENT TO INVESTIGATE! COME ON, ELSA!

BUT NEXT INSTANT, AN EVEN GREATER SHOCK STUNS THE IMPERILED PAIR TO A STANDSTILL...

MARK! AN--AN ALIEN...FROM SOME OTHER WORLD.

HE'S RUSHING US!

DON'T PANIC, ELSA... LET HIM GET GOOD AND CLOSE!

OOF!

THAT SHOULD DO IT! HEAD FOR THE PLANE, ELSA... I'LL CATCH UP!

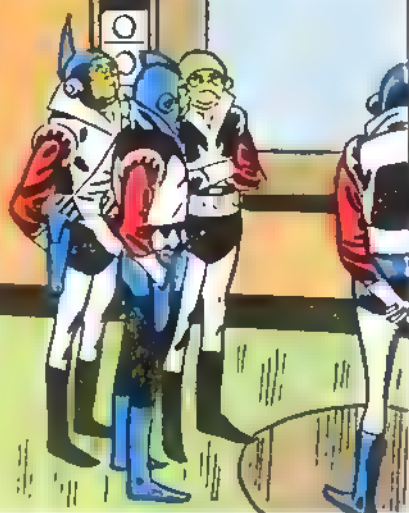
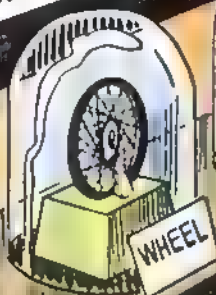
BUT, BEFORE THEY CAN GET VERY FAR.

OH-H-H-H...

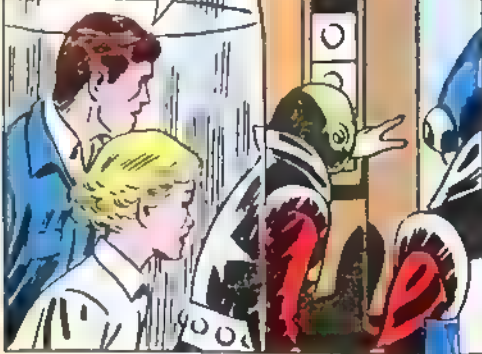
WHEN THE FAMED INVESTIGATOR AND HIS SECRETARY NEXT REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS, THEY GAPE IN DISBELIEF AT AN INCREDIBLE SCENE...

EXHIBIT
LAST SPECIMENS FROM
PLANET EARTH

MARK!
W-WE SEEM
TO BE ON
EXHIBIT--
SOMEWHERE
OUT IN
SPACE!

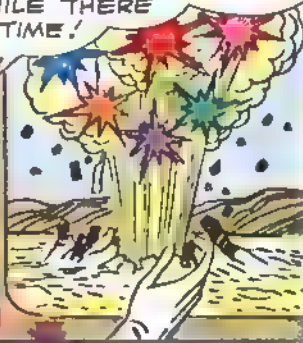


YES... AND THERE'S THE
ALIEN WHO CAPTURED
US -- POINTING TO
THAT BIG
SCREEN!



SUDDENLY, THE INTERPLANETARY
TV SCREEN IS FILLED BY AN
AWESOME SCENE, AND ALIEN
THOUGHT-WORDS ECHO IN THE
HUSHED ROOM...

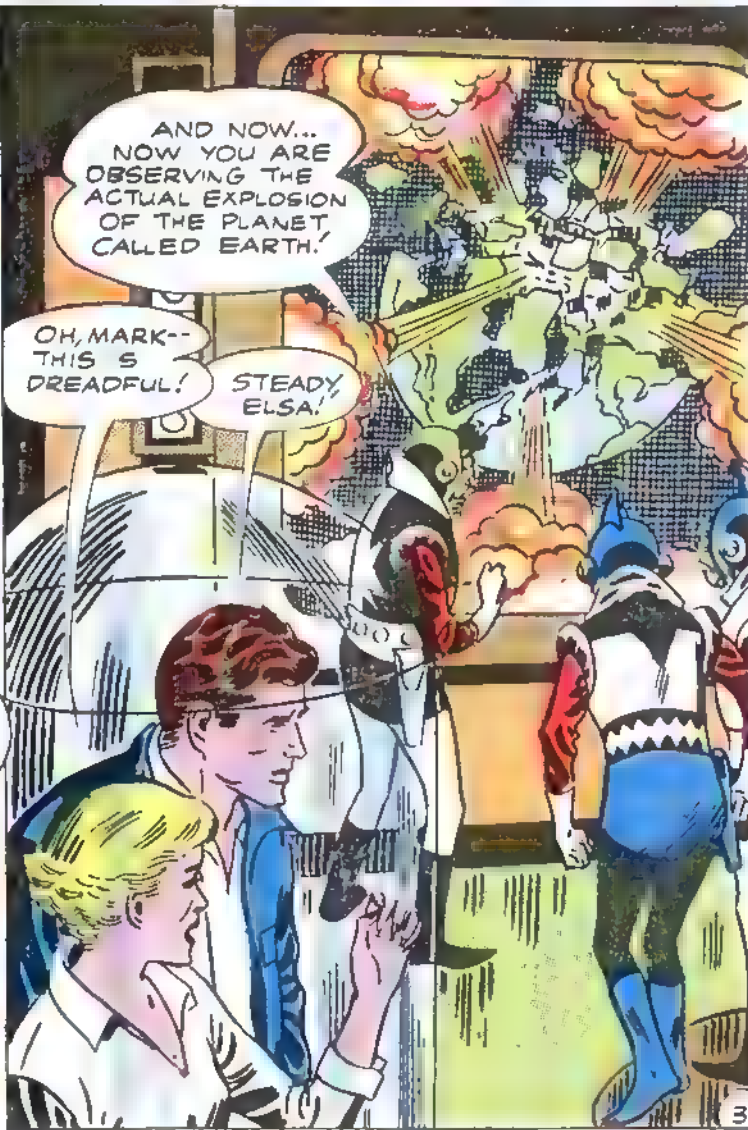
WHEN MY
RESEARCH CONVINCED ME THAT
THIS WORLD WAS ON THE VERGE
OF EXPLODING, I DECIDED TO
OBTAIN SOME SPECIMENS AND
RELICS WHILE THERE
WAS STILL TIME!

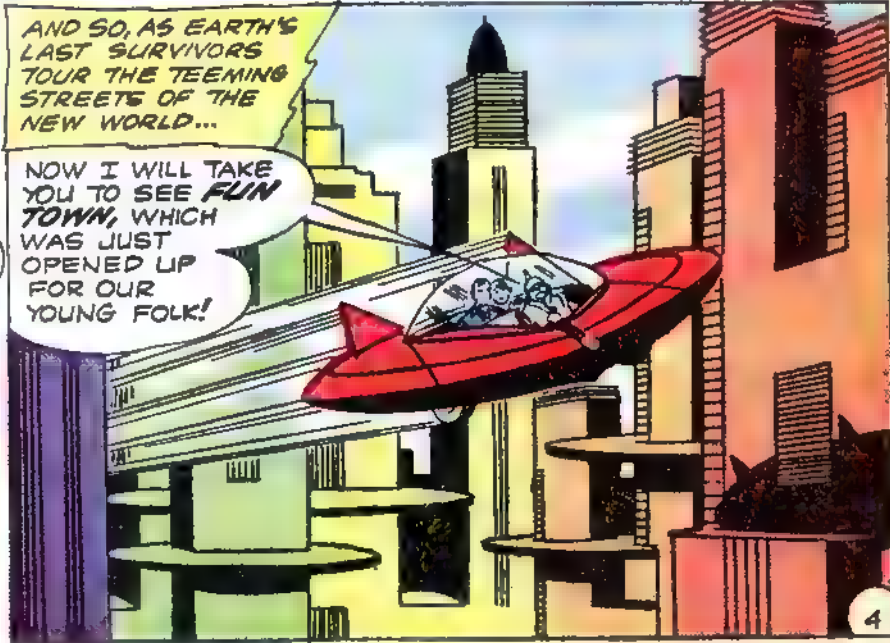
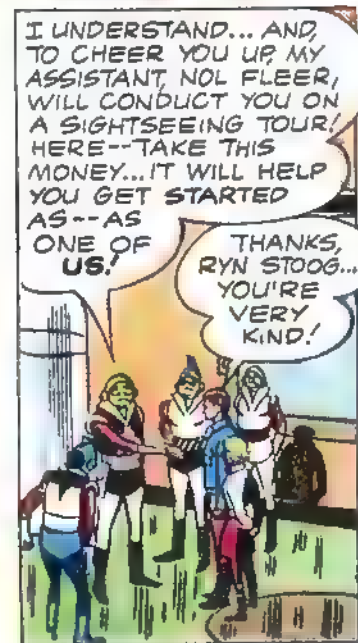
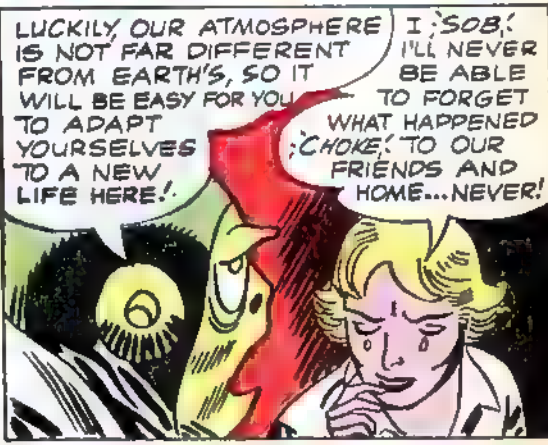
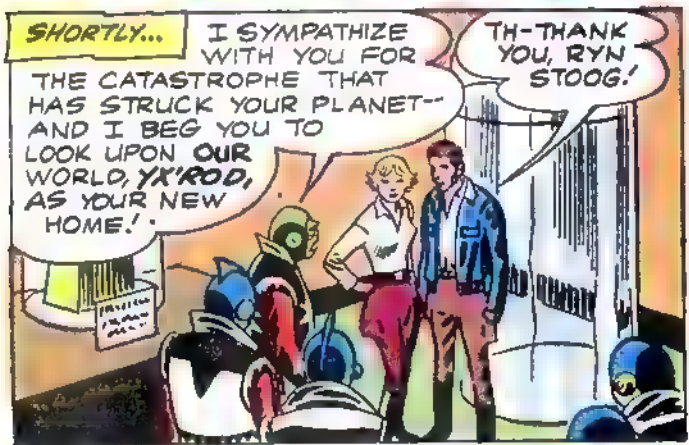
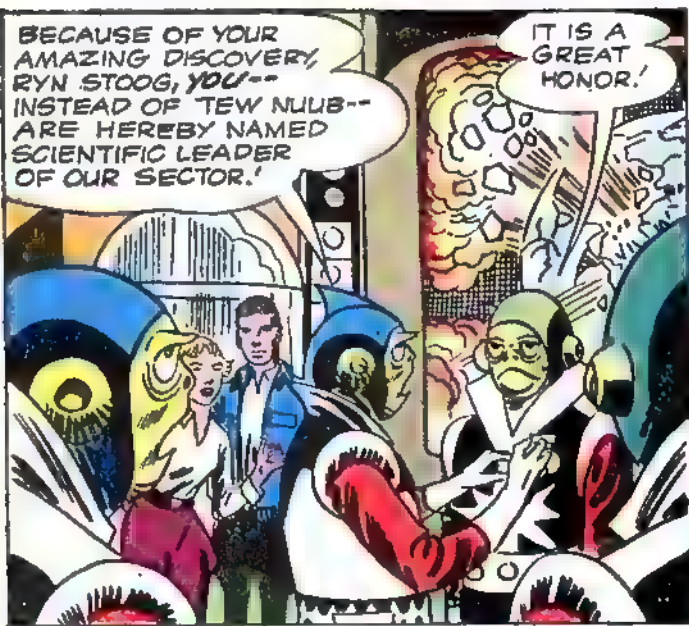


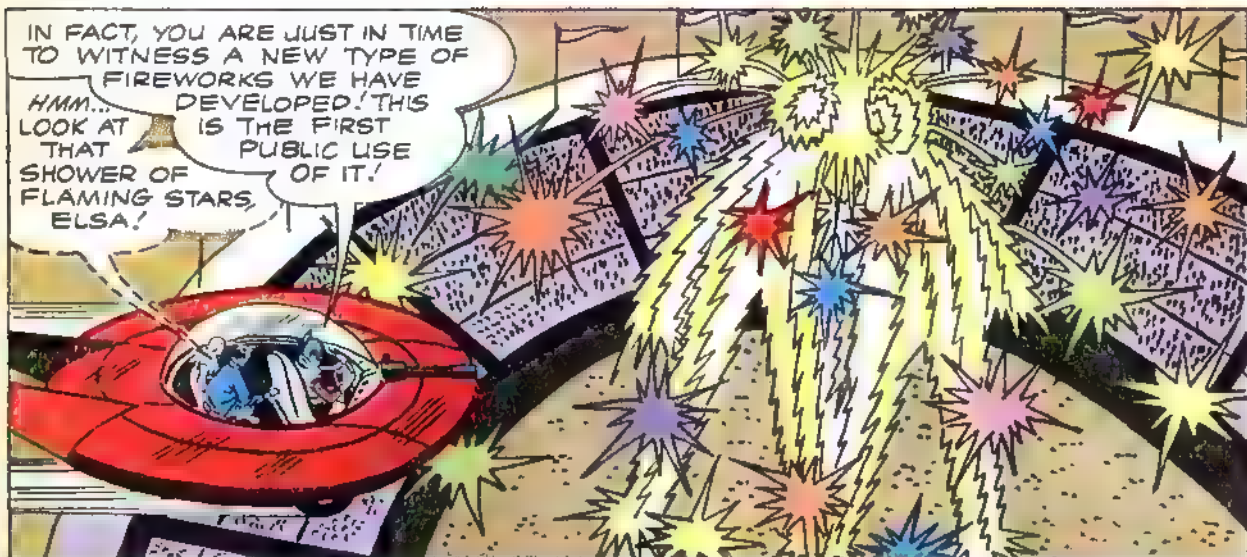
AND NOW...
NOW YOU ARE
OBSERVING THE
ACTUAL EXPLOSION
OF THE PLANET
CALLED EARTH!

OH, MARK--
THIS IS
DREADFUL!

STEADY,
ELSA!

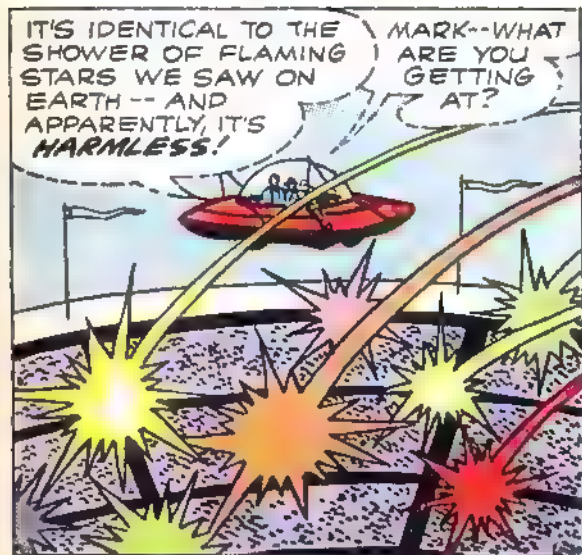






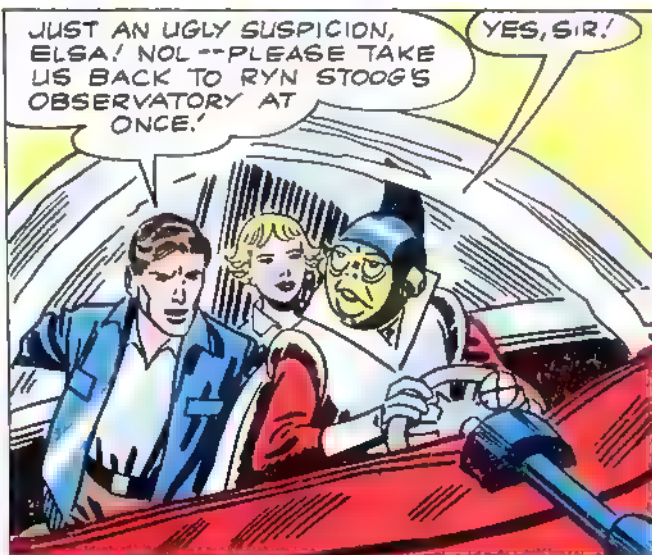
IN FACT, YOU ARE JUST IN TIME TO WITNESS A NEW TYPE OF FIREWORKS WE HAVE DEVELOPED! THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC USE OF IT!

HMM... LOOK AT THAT SHOWER OF FLAMING STARS, ELSA!



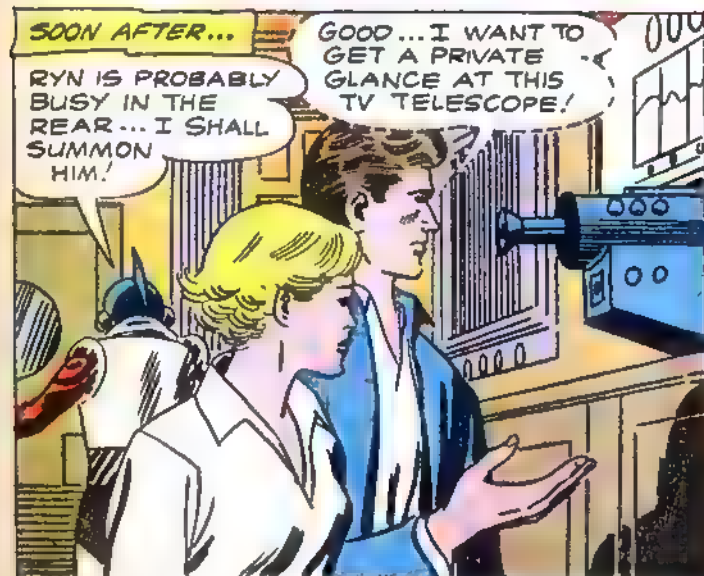
IT'S IDENTICAL TO THE SHOWER OF FLAMING STARS WE SAW ON EARTH -- AND APPARENTLY, IT'S HARMLESS!

MARK--WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?



JUST AN UGLY SUSPICION, ELSA! NOL--PLEASE TAKE US BACK TO RYN STOOG'S OBSERVATORY AT ONCE!

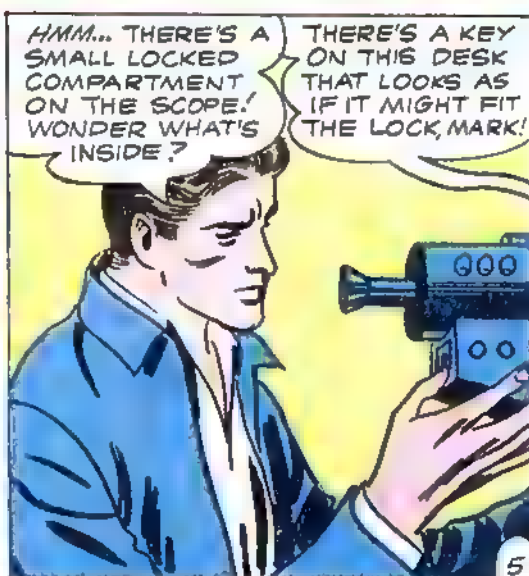
YES, SIR!



SOON AFTER...

RYN IS PROBABLY BUSY IN THE REAR... I SHALL SUMMON HIM!

GOOD... I WANT TO GET A PRIVATE GLANCE AT THIS TV TELESCOPE!



HMM... THERE'S A SMALL LOCKED COMPARTMENT ON THE SCOPE! WONDER WHAT'S INSIDE?

THERE'S A KEY ON THIS DESK THAT LOOKS AS IF IT MIGHT FIT THE LOCK, MARK!

AS MARK UNLOCKS THE COMPARTMENT...

JUST THEN...

JUST AS I SUSPECTED, ELSA...
WHAT WE SAW WAS NOT AN
ACTUAL TELECAST OF THE
EARTH EXPLODING,
BUT A **FAKED**
FILM!

HERE, HERE--
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
THERE?

EXPOSING YOU AS A
HOAXSTER, RYN! NOL--
I DEMAND THAT YOU
CALL THE
POLICE AT
ONCE!

AND, BEFORE LONG, A TENSE SCENE TAKES
PLACE...

FOR SHAME,
RYN STOOG--TO PER-
PETRATE SUCH
TRICKERY TO WIN
HONORS! I HEREBY
ARREST YOU! REMOVE
HIM TO THE
SECURITY
OFFICE!

B-BUT...I AM
INNOCENT--
INNOCENT!
WHOEVER MADE
THAT FILM MUST
HAVE ALSO PRE-
PARED THAT ERUPTION
ON EARTH-- BEFORE
I ARRIVED THERE!

BAH!...
A LIKELY
STORY!

H-HOW COULD RYN STOOG
DO SUCH A THING?
PLEASE EXCUSE ME...
I MUST MAKE A CALL!

BUT, AS NOL FLEER VANISHES INTO THE
REAR ROOM...

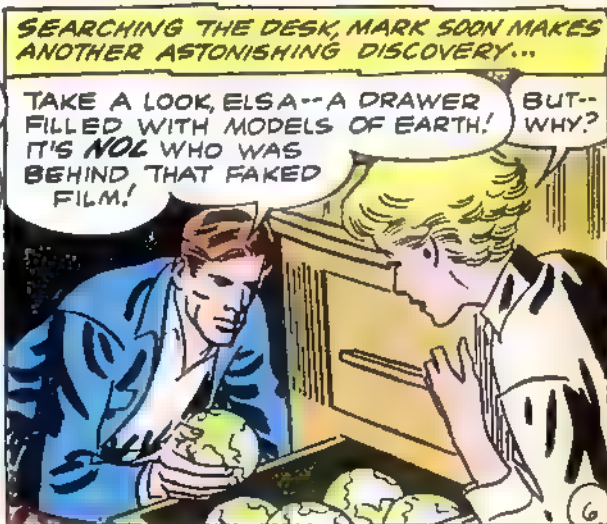
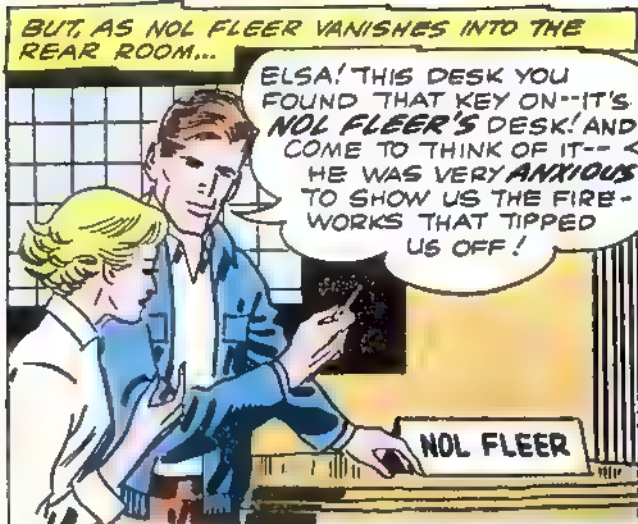
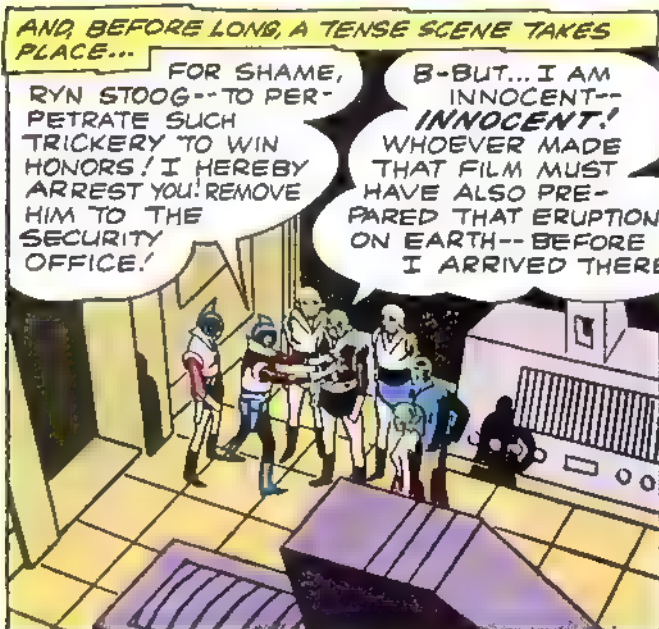
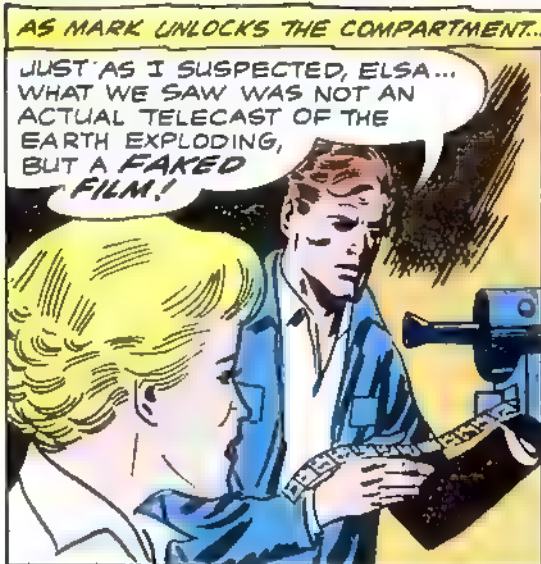
ELSA! THIS DESK YOU
FOUND THAT KEY ON--IT'S
NOL FLEER'S DESK! AND
COME TO THINK OF IT--
HE WAS VERY **ANXIOUS**
TO SHOW US THE FIRE-
WORKS THAT TIPPED
US OFF!

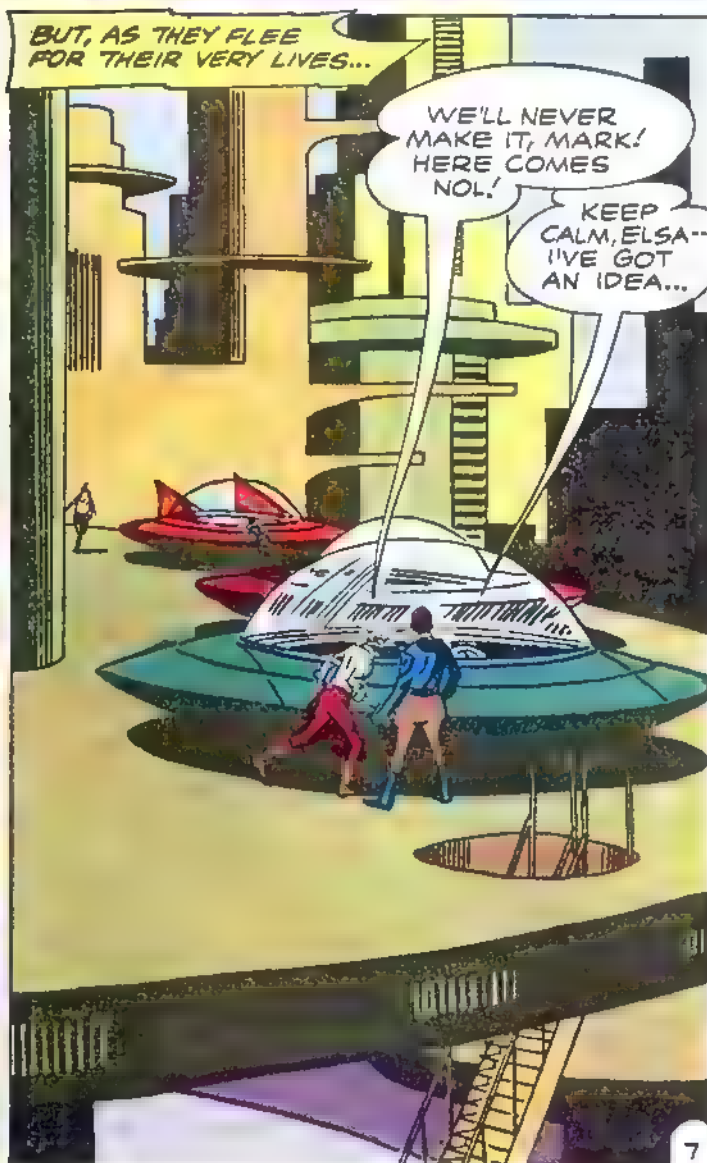
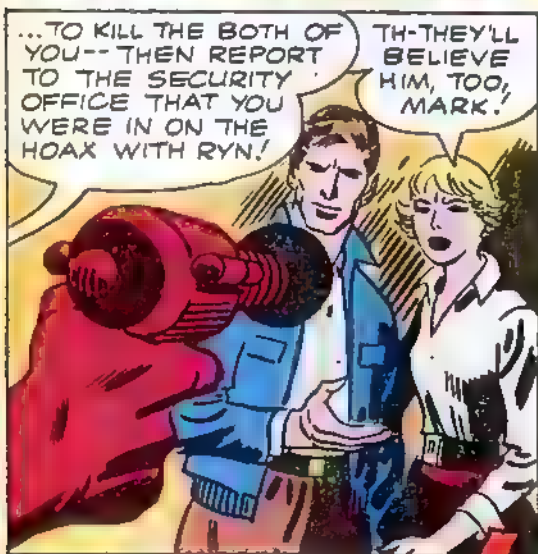
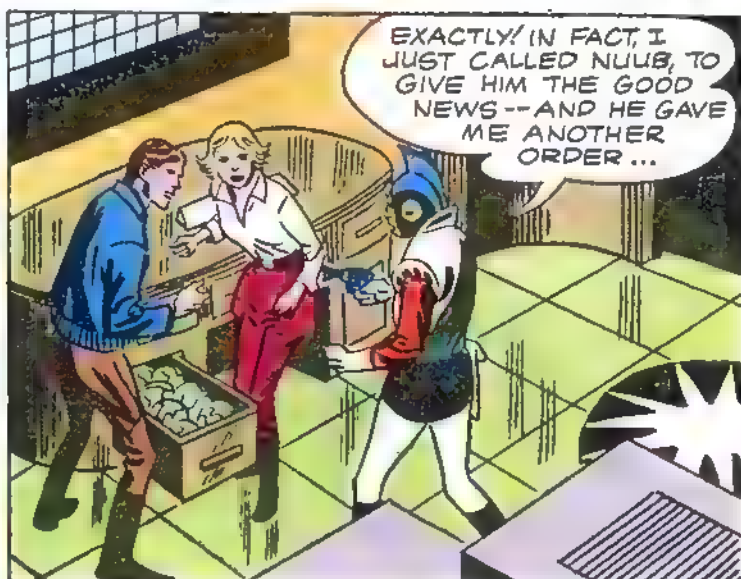
NOL FLEER

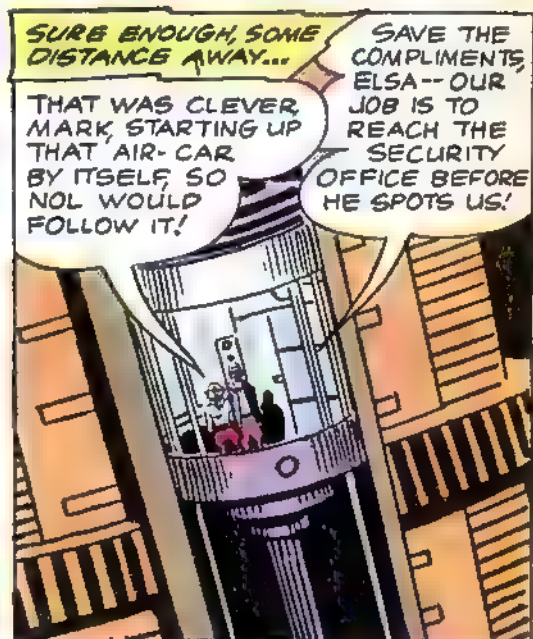
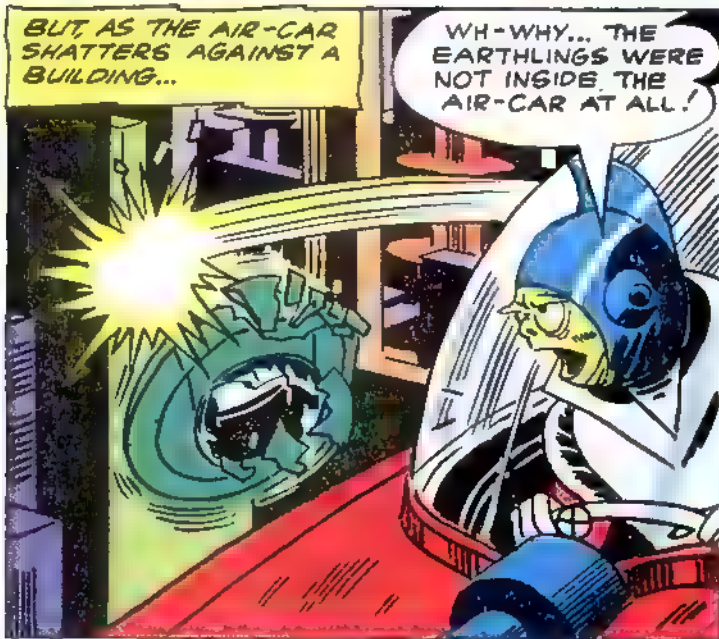
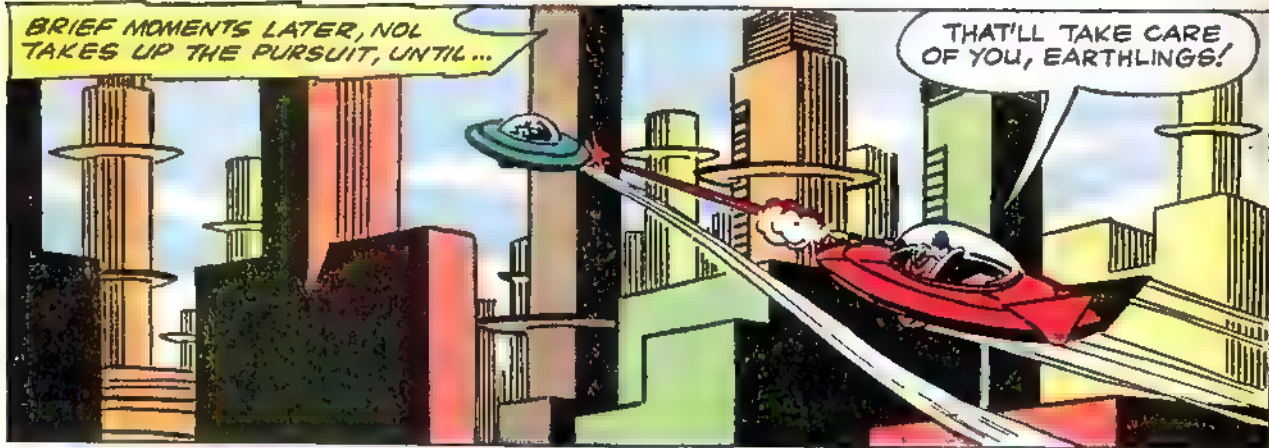
SEARCHING THE DESK, MARK SOON MAKES
ANOTHER ASTONISHING DISCOVERY...

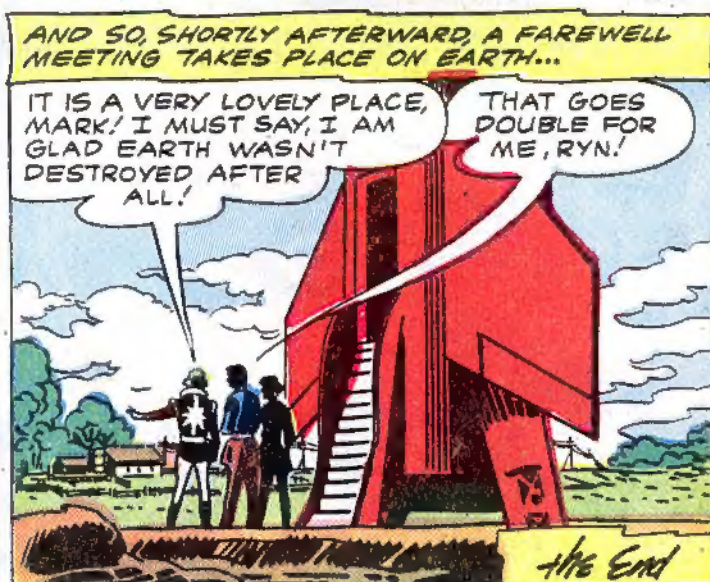
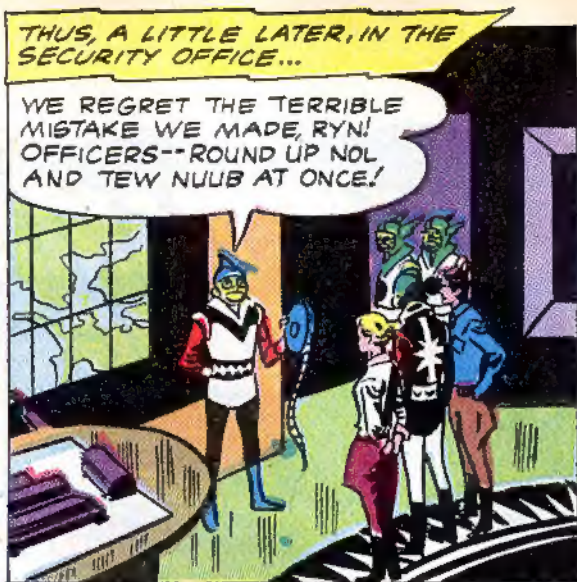
TAKE A LOOK, ELSA--A DRAWER
FILLED WITH MODELS OF EARTH!
IT'S **NOL** WHO WAS
BEHIND THAT FAKED
FILM!

BUT--
WHY?

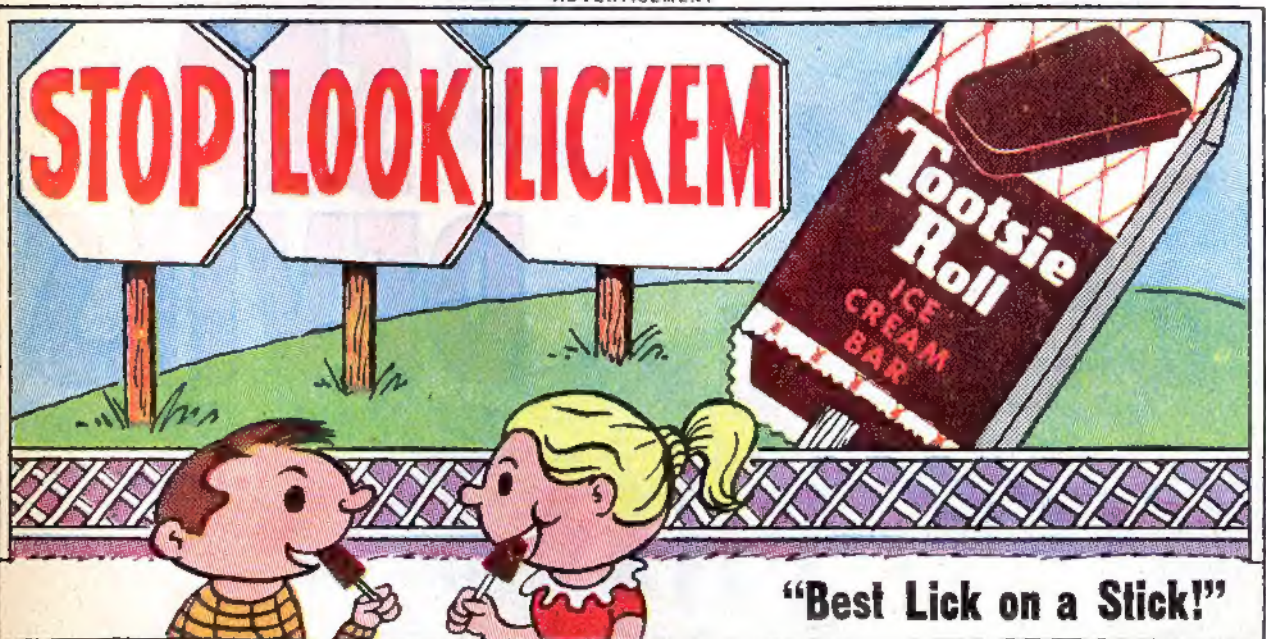








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SEA DEVILS

DIVE INTO THE DEEP SEA IN THEIR **OWN** STARTLING UNDERWATER MAGAZINE...

SEA DEVILS

ON SALE
 SEPT. 12th



Are **YOU**
SKINNY
like I was?

a 90 lb.
weakling
who became
world's
strongest
man



George
Jowett
BEFORE

George
Jowett
Champion
of
Champions
World's
Greatest
Builder
of
Champions
and REAL
HE-MEN
out of
SKINNY
and FLABBY
weaklings

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And Become a REAL HE-MAN like MANY THOUSANDS of My Pupils in 10 Minutes of FUN a Day

Yes! I'll Show You By My Quick,
Easy Methods How To

**ADD POWERFUL NEW
INCHES OF MUSCLES
around YOUR ARMS,
CHEST, LEGS, etc.**

**How to IMPROVE YOUR
HE-MAN LOOKS 100%.**

**How to BECOME A WINNING ATHLETE
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**How to be a WINNER in EVERYTHING
YOU TACKLE.**

YES! Your Success Story Can Soon be like John Sill and thousands of my pupils. Think of it — a skinny weakling like you became a **MAGNIFICENT MR. MUSCLES** — won a **BIG SILVER TROPHY**, his name, accomplishments engraved on it and \$100. A few weeks before, everybody picked on John, too weak to fight for his rights. **TODAY** everybody admires John's movie star build, he-man **STRENGTH**, his mighty **ARMS**, heroic **CHEST**, slender **WAIST**, rock-like **TORSO**, broad manly **BACK**, wide military **SHOULDERS**, new popularity with the **BOYS** and **GIRLS**. His winning drive in **ALL SPORTS**, his energy at work and studies.

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are, if you are in your teens, twenties or thirties, I'll show you in just 10 thrilling minutes a day in your home, you can make yourself over by the easy, quick method I turned myself from a wreck to a **WORLD CHAMPION**.

YES! YOU'LL ADD INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLES to YOUR ARMS, YOU'LL DEEPEN YOUR CHEST, BROADEN YOUR BACK and SHOULDERS. From HEAD to HEELS you'll gain **SIZE**, **POWER**, **LIGHTNING SPEED**, **ENDURANCE**. You'll become the **SUCCESSFUL HE-MAN** in LOOKS and ACTS — a **WINNER** in EVERYTHING, athletics, business, studies.

**DEVELOP YOUR 520 MUSCLES
BY THE GREATEST METHOD!**

Friend, I traveled the world, studying every secret to PERFECTLY develop your body. My "5-Way Progressive Power Method" is TESTED-PROVED by hundreds of thousands LIKE YOU! SAVE YEARS, hundreds of DOLLARS! Do as movie stars, champions — John Sill, Jim Norman, Tony Pascarella — did! Mail coupon NOW!

**Pick the
kind of
BODY YOU
WANT**
Check ALL Your
Needs —

**WIN
A BIG
Silver Trophy
and \$100
IN CASH**



**MAIL THE COUPON TO ME NOW
and I'll Send You FREE these
5 AMAZING PICTURE-PACKED COURSES**

**PLUS BOOK OF PHOTOS OF FAMOUS STRONG
MEN ONCE WEAK LIKE YOU**



Formerly \$5.00 each. MILLIONS were sold at \$1.00. Send for them ALL FREE. Mail Coupon BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE and you have to pay \$1.00 or \$5.00. COUPON LIMITED TO Men 14, 20, 30, 40 and over.

**I GAINED
60 LBS.
OF SHAPELY
MIGHTY
MUSCLES**

**This Can Be
YOU in a
Short
Time!**

BEFORE

Mailing
Coupon
I was a
125 lb.
6 ft.
skinny
weakling



says **JOHN SILL**

I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3 1/2 INCHES to EACH ARM. No, Pal! You don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.

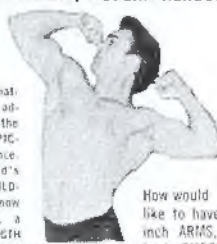
AFTER

Mailing
Coupon
185 lb.
HEAD-TO-TOE HE-MAN
POPULAR
ATHLETE
You can
be, too!



**This now MAGNIFICENT, MODERN HERCULES,
26 yr. old
teacher,
Wm. Butler,**

says to YOU, "No matter WHAT your age, I advise you, SEND for the JOWETT WONDER PICTURE COURSES at once. Under the World's GREATEST BODY-BUILDER, George Jowett, I now have 18 1/2" ARMS, a 52" CHEST my STRENGTH has greatly improved. So have my sports. I have won titles like 'Mr. Virginian', 'Mr. State Y.M.C.A.', etc."



YOU
like to have 18 1/2 inch ARMS, a 52 inch CHEST like this Jowett pupil NOW has?

**I BROKE A
WORLD'S
STRENGTH
RECORD!**

JIM NORMAN
became Athlete of the Year. Lifted the front End of a 2700 lb. Car. Quit being a bag-of-bones weakling like I was. In 10 minutes of fun a day, JOWETT CAN DO FOR YOU ALL HE DID FOR ME! I gained 25 TERRIFIC LBS. of HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES.

BEFORE



AFTER

mailing
coupon
below —
like
you do
NOW.



JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING, Dept. NC-III-R Great Neck, New York

Dear George: I'm checking everything I need to give me the kind of body

I want: ☐ I want to gain lbs. (fill in).
☐ I want to add inches of muscle to my ☐ Arms ☐ Chest ☐ Legs ☐ Shoulders
☐ I want to become a winning athlete ☐ I want NEW PEP, NEW ENERGY
☐ I want to streamline my body, get rid of flabby fat.

Also please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses, now all in 1 volume, ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

DO NOT MAIL COUPON IF UNDER 14 YRS. OF AGE.

Name Age
Address
City Zone State



TABLE TENNIS SET



BIG PLUSH ANIMALS



CARDIGAN SWEATER



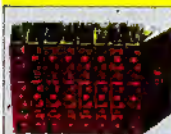
DIARY WALLET, PHOTO ALBUM



GIRL'S TRAVEL CASE



KODAK CAMERA OUTFIT



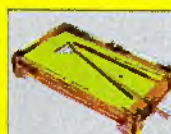
8 VOL. ENCYCLOPEDIA



VISIBLE V-8 MOTOR (It Runs)



ELECTRIC JIG SAW



POOL TABLE SET



BIG 3 HUNTING SET



ELECTRIC LANTERN



MICROSCOPE SET



MARK XII FLASH CAMERA



WRIST WATCHES



ENGINE POWERED PLANE



ELECTRIC AUTO RACE



TRANSISTOR RADIOS



STAR MASTER TELESCOPE



4 DAISY AIR RIFLES



ELECTRIC FOOTBALL GAME



BERWIN TYPEWRITER



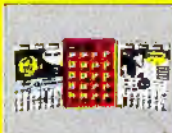
FULL STRING GUITAR



COMPLETE ARCHERY SET



3-SPEED PHONOGRAPH



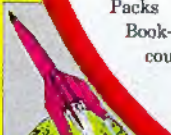
CHEM-CRAFT LAB



SLEEPING BAG



BOB COUSY BASKETBALL



PARACHUTE ROCKET



MAKE MONEY

Get PRIZES

with Fast Selling 50c Xmas Packs

Take your choice of a wonderful prize. It can be yours quickly, easily. Most prizes shown here and many more in our Big Prize Book are given **WITHOUT COST** for selling just one order of 24 Xmas Packs. Some of the larger prizes require more sales or extra money, as explained in the Big Prize Book.

SEND NO MONEY, WE TRUST YOU. It's easy to sell these 50c Xmas Packs to your family, friends and neighbors. Each Pack contains 5 Big Beautiful Christmas Cards, 5 envelopes, 10 Gift Tags and 40 Christmas Seals—just what every home needs at Christmas time. **60 PIECES IN EVERY PACK**—a big value for only 50c. They are much easier to sell than high-priced boxes of cards. Many boys and girls sell all their Xmas Packs in one hour. You can too—and get your prize at once. Or, if you want money instead of a prize, keep \$4.00 in cash for every 24-pack order you sell. **BE FIRST** in your neighborhood. Mail coupon today for your Xmas

Packs and Big Prize Book—give the other coupon to a friend.

**AMERICAN
SPECIALTY
COMPANY**

Dept. 14
Lancaster, Pa.

**MAIL ONE COUPON NOW
Give the Other to a Friend**

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 14-F, Lancaster, Pa.

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 24 Xmas Packs. I will sell the Xmas Packs at 50c each, send you the money and choose my prize.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____

AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., Dept. 14, Lancaster, Pa.

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 24 Xmas Packs. I will sell the Xmas Packs at 50c each, send you the money and choose my prize.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____

EXTRA! WIN A GRAND PRIZE

in our \$1,200.00 Promptness Contest
You have an opportunity to win an RCA Victor TV Set, a Motor Powered Speedmobile, Stereo Record Player or \$100.00 in cash. Information sent with Big Prize Book and Xmas Packs. Be prompt. Mail coupon now.



RCA VICTOR TV

MOTOR POWERED
SPEEDMOBILE

STEREO HI-FI RECORD PLAYER



\$100 IN CASH